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Superfight offered free; Pacquiao to train in US starting next month

Dennis Rodman lives up to bad boy image in Cebu

IT'S GOOD TO BE BAD!

By Jhunnex Napallacan, *PDI Visayas Bureau* **and Tonette Orejas** *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CEBU CITY—BAD BOY. Whatcha gonna do?

International basketball star Dennis Rodman is not

DENNIS/ A7

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, April 29, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 140 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Salceda on keeping of oil VAT: It'll be long hot summer

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG, HOT SUMMER OF discontent.

The failure to lift the value-added tax on petroleum products would "only aggravate the state of crisis" brought about by surging prices of crude oil in the global market, Albay Rep. Joey

SALCEDA/ A7

Judge rebuffs Gonzalez

Court refuses to downgrade rape charges against 3 US Marines

EDWIN BACASMAS

FIRST APPEARANCE: The four accused in the Subic rape of a Filipina are arraigned at the Makati Regional Trial Court on Friday. (Above) STAFF SGT. CHAD CARPENTIER.

CPL. KEITH SILKWOOD

LANCE CPLS. DANIEL SMITH (foreground), DOMINIC DUPLANTIS (behind).

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI JUDGE YESTERDAY HANDED JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez a stinging rebuff by refusing to downgrade rape charges against three of four US Marines, and the Americans added to the drama by refusing to enter a plea.

Judge Benjamin Pozon automatically entered a not guilty plea for them during the American servicemen's first public appearance since they were accused of conspiracy in the rape of a Filipino woman at Subic Bay Freeport.

"*Kung puwede nga lang bugbugin yung mga taong yun* (If only they could be beaten up)," a brother of the 22-year-old rape complainant told reporters on seeing the Americans.

Hours before the arraignment started, Pozon formally rejected as "devoid of merit" a government prosecution motion to downgrade the charges against three of the four defendants.

In his order, the presiding judge of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 129 insinuated that the motion smacked of interference in the court's independence.

"...This court is of the considered view that the motion's thrust is to induce the court to decide on the participation of the three accused US servicemen in the alleged crime of rape on the basis of evidence not yet presented before it but before the secretary of justice, which not only asks for the disregard of the requirements of due process, but also tends to erode the court's independence," said Pozon in his order.

Gonzalez raised a firestorm of protests earlier this month when he moved to downgrade the role of three of the Marines from principals to accessories, saying he found no evidence of conspiracy.

The 22-year-old alleged victim, whose real name has not been disclosed but has been identified in media only as "Nicole," was apparently not present in court to witness the proceedings.

Her lawyer, Evalyn Ursua, said Nicole was just around the Makati City Hall's new building, where the hearing was held. Her mother and two brothers attended the proceedings.

The complainant's lawyers had denounced Gonzalez and women's rights groups accused him of "playing God" after he called for the downgrading of the charges against the three of the accused. Olongapo Prosecutor Prudence Jalandoni, also unhappy with Gonzalez's move, withdrew from the case.

The amended information filed by the prosecution team, adopting a Department of Justice resolution, sought to retain Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith as the lone principal.

The Marines have insisted only

JUDGE/ A8

Fr. Reuter presents 'other side' of the accused

By Volt Contreras

AS HE PUTS IT, AMERICAN PRIEST James Reuter, one of the country's most revered religious figures, considers "99 percent" of his time as spent for the spiritual uplift of Filipinos.

Yesterday, the beloved Jesuit and prominent communicator of the local Catholic Church showed who was getting the other one percent.

Reuter made quite a surprising appearance at the arraignment in Makati City of four American Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman. He was there, he said, as a "spiritual adviser" of the accused.

The priest said he has been "saying Mass twice a week" for two of the accused Marines who are Catholics—Lance Corporal Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier—at the US Embassy building, where the soldiers have been held since November last year.

The other accused, Lance Corporals Daniel Smith and Keith Silkwood, are Protestants who are attended to by their own pastors, but "I always get to talk to them" on spiritual matters as well, Reuter said.

"They asked for a priest," Reuter recalled in an INQUIRER interview.

He said it was Chris Rowen, an

FR. REUTER/ A8

Gringo aide captured in Los Baños

By Marlon Ramos *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau* **and Dona Z. Pazzibugan** *in Manila*

CAMP VICENTE LIM—MILITARY and police intelligence agents yesterday arrested a close associate of former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and the latter's coaccused in the rebellion charges filed by the government for the failed July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Ernesto Macahiya, 64, the spokesperson of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., was arrested by operatives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Counter-Intelligence Group [AFPCIG] at a store near a cockpit in Barangay San Antonio in Los Baños, Laguna, at around 3 p.m.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said Macahiya would be presented to the media at 10 a.m. today by Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and PNP Regional Director 4 Chief Supt. Prospero Noble.

"He did not offer any resistance," Senior Supt. Aaron Fidel, intelligence chief of the Calabarzon regional police office, told reporters.

Fidel said the arrest was covered by an arrest warrant for coup d'etat issued by Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Cesar Santamaria. Coup d'etat is a nonbailable offense.

"Macahiya was arrested after a series of follow-up operations. He was in transit and stopped by the

GRINGO/ A4

'Oplan Manggagawa' details dawn-to-dusk anti-GMA plot

By Tony S. Bergonia

MALACAÑANG WAS FURNISHED a copy of a document detailing a plot to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 1 involving the Left and the opposition, according to a well-placed source.

The two-page document was supplied by a member of the staff of an opposition senator, said the source, who asked not to be named for security reasons. He said he gave a copy to Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, head of the Presidential Security Group, and another copy to Norberto Gonzales, Ms Arroyo's national security adviser.

He said he received no feedback from the two officials on how they were viewing the leak.

The plot allegedly dubbed Oplan Manggagawa was to kick off at 5 a.m. of May 1, Labor Day, when militant groups are expected to march on Edsa "coming from the north and the east."

By 6:30 a.m., the groups expect to be dispersed from the Edsa Shrine where they are to assemble, the document said.

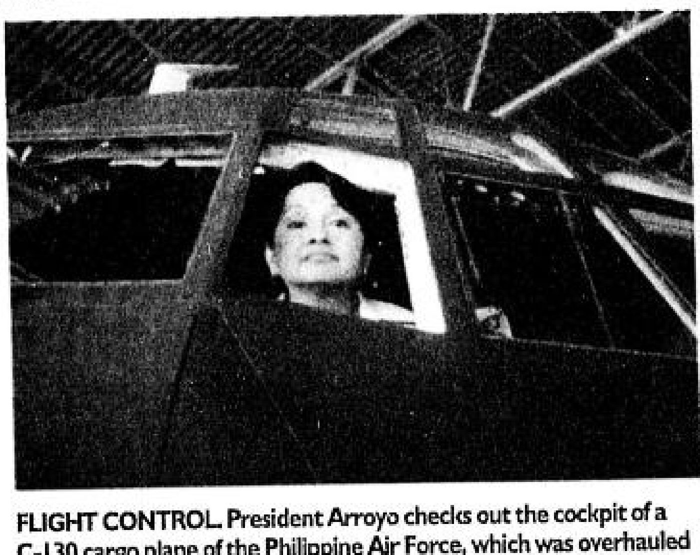
"After dispersal, [the] groups are instructed to reorganize in front of the municipal hall SJ (San Juan)," it said.

San Juan is a known bastion of ousted President Joseph Estrada, who is on trial for plunder and whose release is being demanded by his supporters.

At about 7:30 a.m. of May 1, when the groups are expected to be in San Juan, "all entry/exit points leading to the municipal hall will be closed," the document said.

It said members of militant labor groups coming from the Waterous Hospital, the San Juan Medical Center and a "Pinaglabanan warehouse" would "join forces with laborers in [the] municipal hall to guard militant groups and incoming police and

OPLAN/ A4



LYN RILLON

FLIGHT CONTROL. President Arroyo checks out the cockpit of a C-130 cargo plane of the Philippine Air Force, which was overhauled and refurbished by a $4-million US grant at the Clark Economic Zone. In a ceremony that included pouring champagne over the nose of the plane, US Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney turned over the aircraft to Ms Arroyo at Villamor Air Base on Friday.

Bishops, businessmen join Cory's anti-Cha-cha drive

RAFFY LERMA

ONE MORE TIME. From left, Bishop Antonio Ledesma, ex-Vice President Guingona, ex-President Cory Aquino, Sen. Drilon, ex-Sen. Vicente Paterno; (standing from left), Bayan's Renato Reyes, Akbayan's Ronald Llamas, Rep. Noynoy Aquino, Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, Rep. Francis Escudero, Mayor Binay, Rep. Erin Tañada, Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva, party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo.

By TJ Burgonio and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE BISHOPS-BUSINESSMEN'S CONFERENCE will be at the frontline of the multisectoral coalition moving to thwart Malacañang-backed efforts to change the 1987 Charter (Cha-cha).

Spurred by the Catholic bishops' "call to action," the BBC is mobilizing Catholic lay organizations to derail the "Cha-cha Express" at the parish level, according to former Sen. Vicente "Ting" Paterno, who disclosed the group's action plan at the close of yesterday's launch of "STOP (Sa Tamang Oras at Paraan) Cha-cha."

"We will take the lead. We will take the initiative toward getting the Catholic lay organizations to come together and conduct information [on Cha-cha] at the parish level," Paterno, a member of the BBC executive committee, told reporters.

He named the Couples for Christ, Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus

BISHOPS/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/04/28/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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PLEA BARGAIN OFFER

59 Oakwood rebels to plead guilty

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SOME 59 JUNIOR MAGDALO OFFICERS UNDERgoing court-martial for their alleged involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny have offered to plead guilty to lesser charges.

The accused officers made known of their intention to enter into a plea bargain in a two-page handwritten letter which they signed and addressed to Armed Force Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

"They are most junior officers involved in the incident," Ruel Pulido, lawyer for the 59 defendants told reporters.

Military prosecutor Col. Pedro Davila welcomed the plea-bargain offer.

"It's a good sign. At least they're open to discussing [a plea bargain]," said defense lawyer Ed Abaya.

Defense lawyer Theodore Te said until yesterday "there has been no expression of openness" on the part of the prosecution to discuss a compromise.

The 59 Magdalo officers are on trial in military court on charges of mutiny, unbecoming and undisciplined conduct, and disrespect to the president and superior officers.

The defendants' attorneys and prosecutors will hold negotiations over the next two weeks to determine how much time they will spend in jail.

Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon, who heads the military court, said that if both sides fail to agree, the trial would proceed on May 17.

The 59 junior officers are accused of seizing part of Manila's financial district on July 27, 2003 in a failed attempt to force President Macapagal-Arroyo and then defense secretary Angelo Reyes to resign. The mutineers surrendered after a 20-hour standoff.

Six other defendants have agreed to testify against their fellow officers.

Defense lawyers have tried to enter into a plea bargain for the junior officers after successfully making a deal in May last year for the 184 enlisted personnel implicated in the mutiny.

Under the terms of the plea bargain, the soldiers pleaded guilty to the lesser charges of disrespect and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. In return they were demoted by three ranks and suffered a pay cut for six months.

Eleven Army soldiers who are still being tried for the mutiny are currently negotiating with military authorities so they can be released under the same plea bargain given to the 184 soldiers.

But the 29 alleged core leaders of Magdalo led by Lt. s.g. Antonio Trillanes IV and eight other officers are not covered by the plea bargain discussions.

"What happened today concerns only this group of officers. There are two other groups that are not covered by what happened today," said Davila said, referring to Trillanes and other Magdalo core leaders.

The 29 Magdalo officers are still facing more severe charges including mutiny, which is punishable by life imprisonment or death.

At the resumption of the court-martial yesterday, Pulido asked the court to postpone the hearings saying they want to discuss plea bargain with the prosecutors.

Davila did not oppose the postponement.

Nine of the 59 junior officers afterward talked to the court members headed by Guerzon.

Pulido said the "breakthrough" came shortly before yesterday's hearing started at 9 a.m., when defense lawyers discussed anew the idea of a plea bargain with the prosecutors who surprisingly told them to make a formal petition.

"Ever since the accused in this case have expressed their willingness to enter into plea bargaining. So today we were given the opportunity to formalize it. We took that opportunity," Pulido said.

With AFP

We're not being used, says ABS-CBN

By Alcuin Papa

TELEVISION NETWORK ABS-CBN yesterday denied it was being used to air seditious statements by forces out to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

Maria Ressa, head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs division, told the INQUIRER that the network would never allow itself to be used by sectors who are out to overthrow the government.

"ABS-CBN news strongly denies the DOJ's accusation that it was used by rebel forces to air seditious statements. ABS-CBN news will never allow itself to be used by anyone," she said.

Ressa, former Jakarta bureau chief of CNN, also said the network will continue defend the public's right to information.

"We are accountable to the Filipino people who need complete, accurate and valuable information. And like Probe, ABS-CBN will continue to fight for a responsible but free and fearless press and defend every Filipino's right to know the truth."

Last week, TV news program "Probe" aired an interview with renegade 1Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, spokesman of a group calling itself the Makabayang Kawal Pilipino (MKP), in which he bared that they would "make their presence felt in the coming days."

The interview provoked a strong reaction from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales who immediately ordered an investigation into the interview.

97 Metro Manila universities, colleges seek tuition hike

By Alcuin Papa

AFTER OIL PRICES, IT'S TUITION hikes.

Almost half of colleges and universities in Metro Manila are seeking increases in their tuition for the coming school year, the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) said the other day.

CHEd chair Dr. Carlito Puno said 99 out of 270 private higher education institutions had applied for tuition increases but two later withdrew their applications.

There are a total of 292 public and private tertiary level schools in the National Capital Region.

But Puno said state colleges and universities will not increase tuition for the coming school year.

Out of the 97 schools, 55 wanted to increase tuition and other fees. Aside from raising tuition and other fees, 20 others want to introduce new fees. The rest only want to increase tuition, or fees related to their Medicines courses.

Of those schools which applied, 54 want to increase tuition above the 7.6 percent national inflation rate while 24 want to stay below the inflation rate.

Puno also said 35 applications for tuition increase above the 7.6 percent inflation rate have been forwarded to the CHEd Review Panel.

CHEd Memorandum No. 14 stipulates that schools raising tuition and other fees above the 7.6 percent inflation rate will have to go through public consultation and get CHEd's approval.

But increases below the 7.6 percent rate could bypass the requirement of public consultations and only need the approval of CHEd.

Puno said there have been exceptional cases when CHEd had to approve increases when the petitioners did not increase its tuition for the last three years. Another case was when the petition for tuition increases was filed by the students themselves to improve school facilities or for salary expenses to get more quality teachers.

Militant students had blasted the CHEd memo saying it gave schools owners and administrators the right to unilaterally raise fees if the increase was less than the inflation rate.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Fake priest alert

A CARLO LAYSON INTRODUCING HIMSELF AS A priest is not a member of the clergy, the Archdiocese of Manila warned clerics and the public yesterday.

"He is not a Roman Catholic priest," Msgr. Roberto Canias, the Manila See's chancellor, said in a circular addressed to the archdiocese's clergy, religious women and school heads.

According to Canias, Layson has claimed to belong to the Archdiocese of Capiz and had "misled a great number of our faithful by celebrating the sacraments."

He said the phony priest had presided over a wedding and had baptized several children without clarifying how Layson was able to undertake the rites unsuspected and whether the wedding and baptisms were invalid.

Canias advised the clergy to always demand a celebret before dealing with people introducing themselves as priests. A celebret serves as a priest's identification card and is signed by his bishop or archbishop.

Fake priests are not exactly a new problem for the Catholic hierarchy. About two years ago, the Philippine National Police warned against fake "chaplains," rascals who used the title not only to celebrate sacraments but to gain money and favors the faithful. ***Christian V. Esguerra***

Ver scores in court

THE SANDIGANBAYAN EARLY THIS MONTH denied the government's motion seeking summary judgment in its forfeiture case against Lt. Col. Rexor Ver, son of the late armed forces chief Gen. Fabian C. Ver. In a resolution released on April 11, the antigraft court held that Rexor is entitled to a full-blown trial to disprove the government's allegation that he acted as a dummy to help his father conceal the alleged ill-gotten wealth he had amassed during the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos. In its motion, the Presidential Commission on Good Government claimed that Rexor's plain denial that his properties "are not ill-gotten" is insufficient to overcome allegations that he allowed himself to be used as 'a dummy, agent or nominee' of his father. The court disagreed noting that that the defendant's answer raises a question of fact that can only be clarified during a trial on the merits of the case. The Vers fled the country with the Marcos family in 1986 following a military-backed people power revolution. ***Nelson F. Flores***

'Hercules' back in action

A PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE (PAF) C-130 "HERcules" aircraft refurbished under a United States military grant was turned over to President Macapagal-Arroyo by US Ambassador Kristie Anne Kenney yesterday. Ms Arroyo and the ambassador poured champagne over the nose of the huge aircraft to celebrate the event held at the Villamor Air Base.. The C-130s are the Air Force's "main workhorse" for heavy lift missions. Some $4 million was spent to repair the C-130, which the PAF purchased in 1983. With the turnover, the PAF now has three working C-130s, said Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, PAF spokesman. ***Nikko Dizon***

Yes to Erap request

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE YESTERDAY posed no objection to former President Joseph Estrada's motion asking for permission to attend his mother's 101st birthday on May 3 in his Polk Street residence in San Juan. The PNP said it is willing to provide security to the former president subject to the condition that he be returned to his detention house in Tanay, Rizal. Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio expressed no opposition to Estrada's request citing his soft heart for mothers. ***Nelson F. Flores***

Labor leader shot

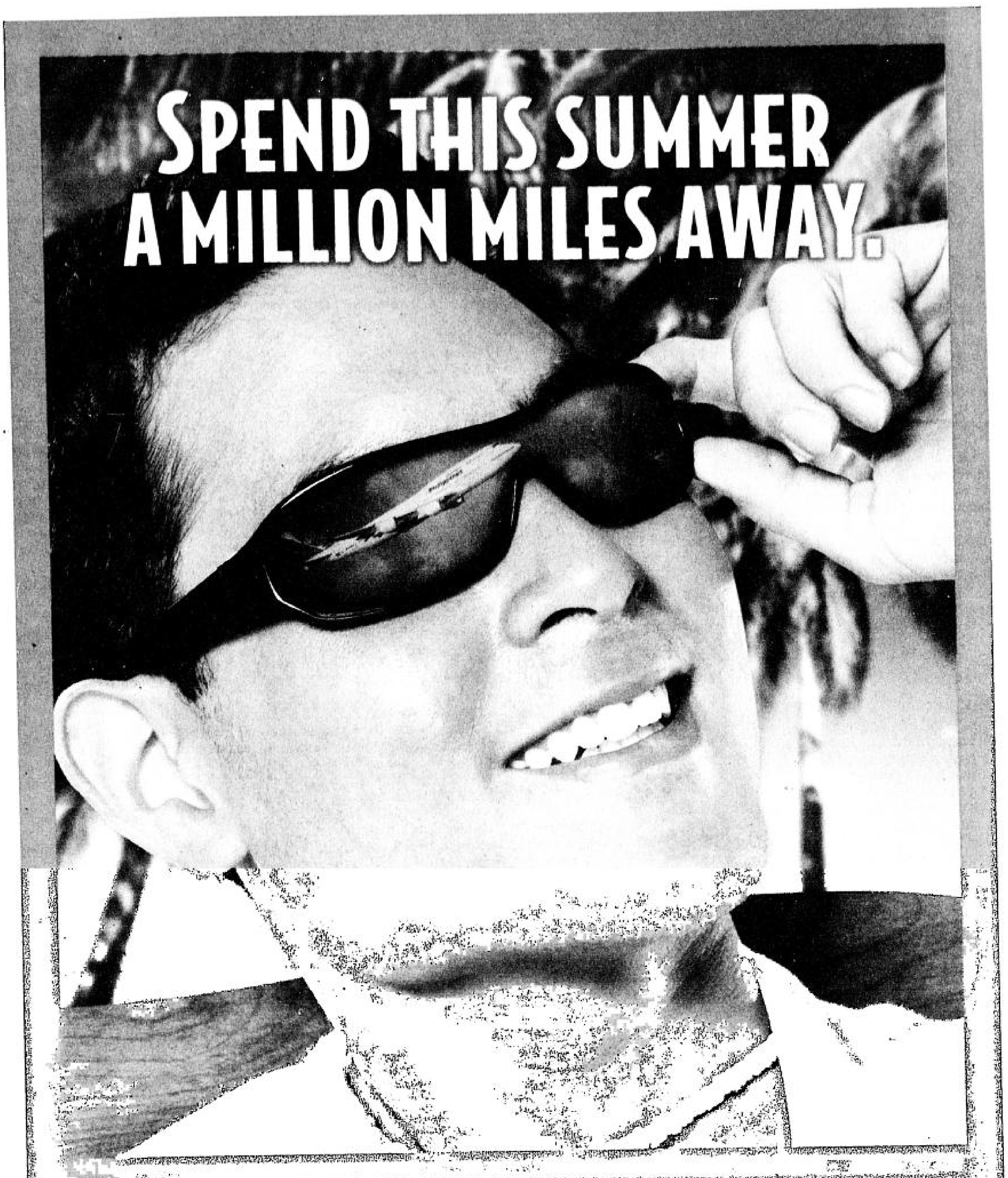
IMUS, CAVITE—A LEADER OF A LABOR group that heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during her commencement speech in Cavite State University was seriously wounded in a shootout with police in Barangay Anabu here early morning Wednesday. Militants claimed the incident was an attempt to assassinate the labor leader identified as Gerardo Cristobal, 34. Also wounded was SPO1 Romeo Lara of the Imus police station. Both are now in critical condition at the Our Lady of Pillar Hospital in Imus. The Solidarity of Cavite Workers (SCW) quickly accused Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi as behind the supposed plot to kill Cristobal. At least seven members of the group heckled Ms Arroyo and raised banners calling for her ouster while she was delivering her speech in front of the graduates of CavSU last week. Maliksi vehemently denied the accusation. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Romulo plans Burma trip

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—THE PHILIPpines' foreign secretary said Friday he will likely visit Myanmar in June, but refused to confirm whether he would seek a meeting with detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Myanmar's military junta has invited him to visit, but specific dates and details were still being worked out. "I will go probably in June," Romulo told reporters during a visit to Kuala Lumpur where he met with his Malaysian counterpart. AP

Meco trains OFWs

SOME FILIPINO WORKERS IN TAIWAN HAVE undergone training on entrepreneurship to help them put up their own businesses when they go home once their employment contracts end. The Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) labor center and Taiwan's Export Processing Zone Administration taught the workers the basic principles, tools and techniques on entrepreneurship as well as the assistance available from the Philippine government. Thirty-nine workers have completed the course that ran for three Sundays in Nantze, Kaohsiung City.



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‘Oplan Manggagawa’ details anti-GMA plot

From page A1

AFP (Armed Forces) from the government side.”

Step by step

Also according to the document:

- At about 8:30 a.m., “all laborers are [expected to be] in place.”
- At 9 a.m., five senators and party-list representatives now collectively known as the Batasan 5 will “publicly call for Ate Glo (Ms Arroyo) to step down and announce that they will hold a vigil until [she] steps down.”

They will “call [for] support from the people.”

The Batasan 5 are Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño, Liza Maza, Rafael Mariano and Joel Virador. They are facing what they called trumped-up rebellion charges.

- Senate employees and the Marines assigned to guard the chamber are expected to immediately express support.
- The Batasang Pambansa will be “reinforced by militant groups and also Marines securing the premises.”

“Marines are instructed to secure the premises, especially the armory. Snipers will be deployed in both buildings (Senate and House of Representatives).”

- At 10 a.m. people, including “religious groups,” are to mass at the Senate, House and San Juan municipal hall.

Armed assault

At about the same time, an armed assault on Camps Crame and Aguinaldo led by the Special Action Force and soldiers from San Juan is expected to start.

“Target completion [for the assault] will be 1100 hr,” the document said.

By noon of May 1, the AFP chief of staff and the chief of the Philippine National Police are expected to announce withdrawal of support from the President, it said.

“If they resist, they will be relieved by the people,” said the document.

It was not clear how this would be done.

At 1 p.m., the Batasan 5 will be “transported” to the Senate to “join the senators,” the document said.

“Tanks and APCs (armored personnel carriers) will proceed to the Senate to secure the premises,” it said.

At 3 p.m., “Army and Marines will take over Malacañang with Air Force contingent and get Ate Glo and Cabinet as prisoners,” the document said.

At 5 p.m., “if God permits, we will declare victory and will have a new interim president,” it said without identifying who this would be.

The document said that at least 5,000 people would be mobilized “per command center.”

“If not reached, laborers will be coming in starting April 16 to be able to get in without a trace,” it said, adding:

“Sleepers will be planted inside administration for advance information re counter measures.”

Asked whether the administration was taking the purported plot seriously, Michael Defensor, the President’s chief of staff, said some points in the details were present in past attempts to unseat Ms Arroyo.

One of these, he said, was the withdrawal of support by the police and military chiefs.

“That’s really their (the plotters’) style because they don’t want bloodshed,” he said, adding:

“They learned from the mistakes of [former senator] Gringo [Honasan] whose adventures in coup [attempts] were failures.

“They realized that what you need [to unseat the President] was just the support of the chiefs of the major service commands [of the AFP].”

Another point in the purported plot that Defensor said he found logical was the transfer of the Batasan 5 to the Senate.

“That’s a right thing to do, if I were to start a fire,” he said. “I will not discount that possibility.”

Defensor said that while he did not find incredible the purported plan to start a vigil at the Senate, he thought it would not work.

“*Mabulok sila doon* (Let them waste their time there),” he said.

On the supposed planned assault on Camps Crame and Aguinaldo and Malacañang, Defensor said that while he doubted that the plotters would be bold enough to launch it, “we just can’t ignore it.”

“If it involves an armed component, that has to be taken seriously,” he said.

CHR monitoring team

The Commission on Human Rights will deploy monitoring teams on May 1 to ensure police compliance with the Supreme Court ruling that deemed the government’s calibrated preemptive response policy unconstitutional.

CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing said the teams, identifiable by their shirts and tags, would be on the streets to record the protest actions and serve as a reminder to antiriot police to respect the rights of demonstrators.

“The CHR will be there on May 1. [The monitoring teams] will be there as a preventive effect,” Quisumbing said at a press briefing yesterday.

She said the monitors themselves would assist the protesters in filing charges against police who would violate their rights during the Labor Day rallies.

Addressing the police, CHR Commissioner Dominador Calamba said: “Don’t hurt the protesters. If they hurt you, arrest them, but it doesn’t mean you have to beat them up.

“If they run when they are dispersed, don’t go after them or hurt them to avoid chaos … Handcuff them if necessary, but if possible, no tear gas or water cannons … That is maximum tolerance.”

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the government would not hesitate to reimpose Presidential Proclamation No. 1017—which placed the country in a weeklong state of national emergency last February—if the May 1 rallies reached the level of the bloody “Edsa Tres” uprising on May 1, 2001. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Jerald Uy (trainee), Blanche S. Rivera, Armand Nocum and Luige A. del Puerto*

Labor groups to defy Atienza

MILITANT LABOR GROUPS YESTERDAY announced plans to defy Manila Mayor Lito Atienza’s warning that the historic Mendiola Bridge was a “no-rally zone,” and vowed to march there on Labor Day.

The Solidarity of Unions and Labor Organizations for a New Government (Sulong) said its planned 300,000-strong nationwide protest would underscore the people’s right to peaceful assembly.

Sulong, which includes the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Partido Manggagawa, Alliance of Progressive Labor, and Alliance of Genuine Labor Organizations, said it would march to Mendiola despite the Manila government’s prohibition amid reports that extremist groups were planning to sow violence on May 1.

“The government is cooking up a scenario of violence on Labor Day to preempt legitimate protests and foment fear among the public,” said Sulong spokesperson Padjo Valdenor.

“This is a worn-out tactic practiced by the police to give them an alibi to prevent workers from marching toward Mendiola, or worse, a scapegoat to blame for violent acts of their own making,” he said.

Another militant labor group, the Kilusang Mayo Uno, said that along with its affiliates, it would assemble at 10 a.m. in various parts of Manila before holding a program at the Liwasang Bonifacio at 1 p.m.

It said former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Ma. Theresa Pangilinan, the Cavite State University mass communication graduate who heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during her speech at the commencement ceremonies, would be part of the program.

Gringo aide …

From page A1

store to buy something. The intelligence group of the AFP had been tailing him for some time now,” Fidel told the INQUIRER.

Fidel said Macahiya had been moving from one place to another on board his Isuzu Crosswinds.

Macahiya was nabbed a few kilometers away from his residence in Barangay Calo, Bay town. He was turned over to the Philippine National Police Region IV headquarters in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City where he is now detained after five months of hiding.

‘I’m innocent’

Speaking to reporters here, Macahiya said he did not resist arrest and was ready to fight it out in the legal arena.

“As I’ve said in my past interviews, I am innocent of the charges filed against me … Given a fair chance to defend myself officially in court, I feel confident that I would be acquitted,” he said.

Macahiya questioned the timing of the release of the arrest warrant which was issued a few hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of emergency last February.

Macahiya was charged with rebellion by the Department of Justice before the Makati Regional Trial Court last Feb. 25 along with Honasan and five others for allegedly conspiring with junior officers who staged the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

They were accused of inciting 300 soldiers to take over the high-rise apartments in Makati’s financial district in an attempt to force President Arroyo to step down.

The PGBI is one of the many factions of the Guardians, a fraternity of active and retired members of the military and police. Honasan is identified with the PGBI faction.

Not a military man

Contrary to earlier reports, Macahiya is not a retired colonel like Honasan. He is known to be a banker by profession.

Macahiya himself had admitted that he was never part of any military or police organization.

Eduardo Matillano, then chief of the police’s Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, had identified Macahiya as a retired colonel.

Although not a member of the military, Macahiya is known to have organized chapters of the PGBI in Laguna.

Macahiya, Honasan’s “brod” in the Alpha Sigma fraternity, also helped the former Army colonel’s senatorial campaign in 1995.

Honasan, who has a P5-million bounty for his capture, went into hiding shortly after an arrest warrant was issued against him for allegedly masterminding the Oakwood mutiny.

5 other accounts

Aside from Honasan, the government had also put up a P1-million reward for retired Navy Capt. Felix Turingan; P500,000 each for retired Col. Virgilio Briones and Col. Romeo Lazo; and P250,000 each for PGBI secretary general George Duldulao and Lina Reyes.

Briones, Lazo, Turingan, Duldulao and Reyes were earlier charged with conspiring with the junior officers who took over the posh Oakwood Premier apartment-hotel in Makati City to press for Ms Arroyo’s ouster.

Matillano had said that Macahiya, Reyes, Duldulao, Briones and Lazo “and other unidentified leaders and members of PGBI” led the PGBI contingents that tried to get to Oakwood in Makati on July 27, 2003.

Over 100 members of the 500,000-strong PGBI, who trooped to the Oakwood, were later identified by the government as the “civilian component” of the failed mutiny.

Honasan was among the 48 persons charged with rebellion earlier this week by the DOJ for an alleged power grab plot last Feb. 24.

In an interview with the INQUIRER somewhere in Southern Tagalog on Monday, Macahiya said Honasan would never surrender.

Macahiya also said the rest of their group would never allow themselves to be arrested.

But he revealed that the former Army colonel, who staged a series of coup d’etat against the Aquino administration, had entered into back-channel talks with the government regarding the rebellion and coup d’etat charges filed against him.

Like Honasan, Macahiya has been in hiding since the Makati RTC issued an arrest warrant last Feb. 25 for the coup d’etat case filed against them in connection with the Oakwood mutiny.

Macahiya said he had been moving from place to place to avoid arrest although he remained in constant communication with Honasan through mobile phone. *With Reuters*

Correction

IN YESTERDAY’S issue, a story on Page A7—“Tatad’s beef vs Davide ‘noted’”—misstated that former Vice President Teofisto Guingona declined his appointment as ambassador to China after he had a falling out with President Macapagal-Arroyo. Guingona actually accepted the post but resigned in July 2005—just a few months after Ms Arroyo named him ambassador in January 2005.

* * *

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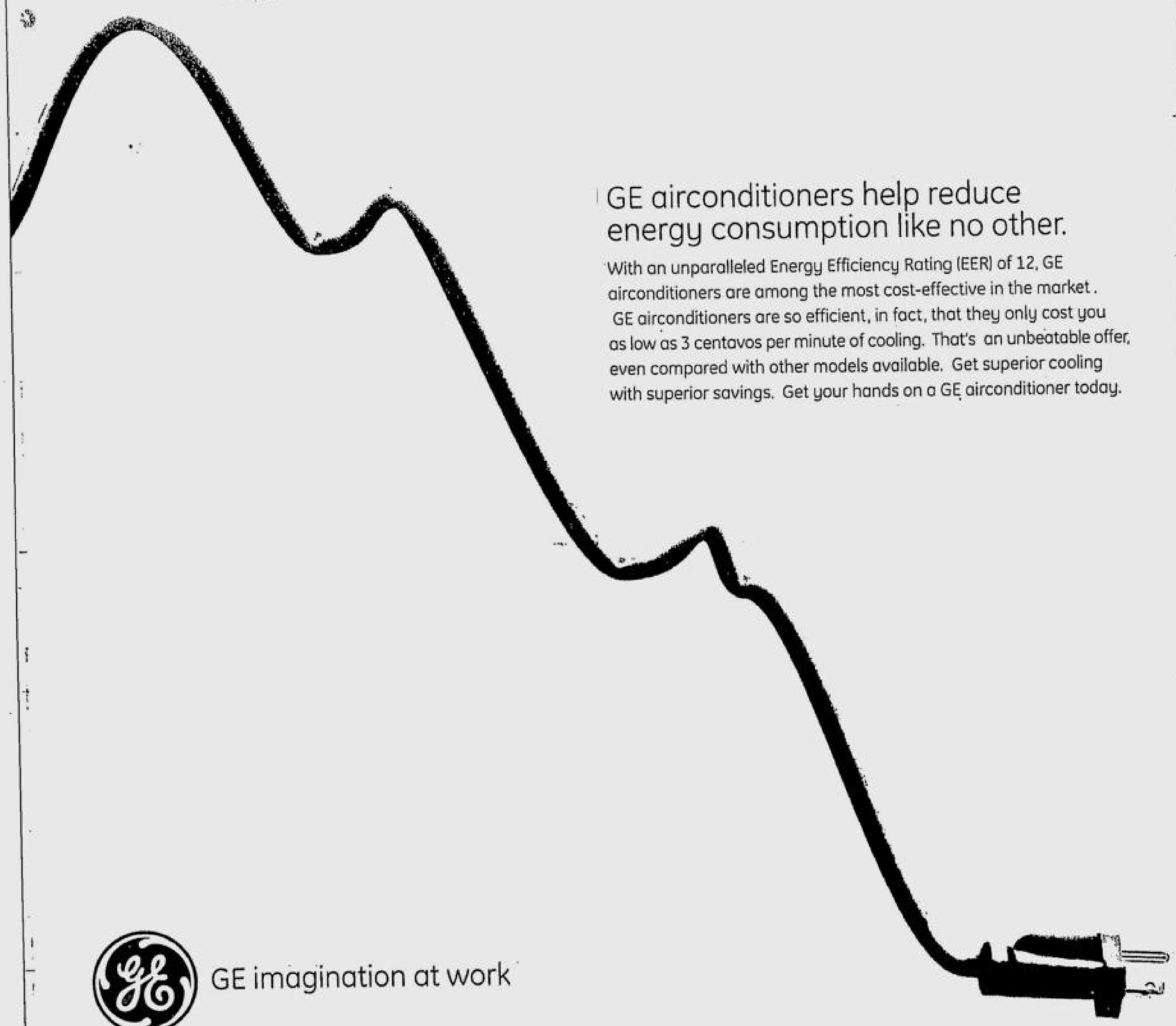

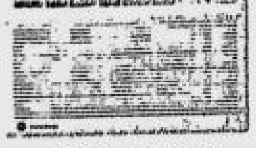

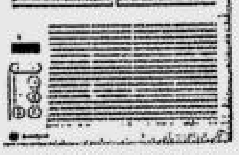

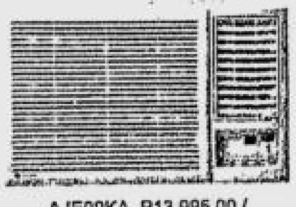

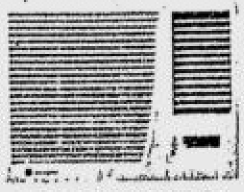

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Salceda . . .

From page A1

Salceda said.

Salceda, chair of the House appropriations committee, yesterday insisted that a suspension of the 12-percent VAT on oil until December was a "proportional response to the plight" of ordinary workers.

"The lifting is time-bound and would automatically revert [once the crude oil stabilizes at $65 per barrel]. The revenue loss is compensable by postponing Executive Order No. 366 [government reorganization] and the fiscal space from P38 billion savings," he said.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet decided to lower oil import tariffs to cushion the impact of high crude prices and keep the government finances on track, formally junking the idea of shelving VAT on petroleum products.

Obviously hurt by Malacañang's decision to throw out his proposal, Salceda said: "No, I mustn't envy them but I must stave off further damage on the President and on the people from them. I have learned to ignore the ignorable."

He said the oil summit called by Malacañang "simply proves my point—it's an apparent reaction prompted by fears of silent rage. And that summit came up with the things that would ease the intellectual miseries of [Press Secretary Ignacio] Bunye."

Unkind truth

The decision of the Cabinet was an "unkind truth," said Salceda, one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic advisers.

He pointed out that 146 congressmen shared his assessment.

"These congressmen listen to the people who elected them. It's our duty to faithfully articulate their views and feelings on the current state of affairs," he said.

Salceda was referring to 146 of the 236-member chamber who had already signed a resolution he authored favoring the temporary VAT deferment.

Silent rage

In lieu of a law repealing the expanded VAT, the House, with the agreement of the Senate, could swiftly adopt a joint resolution asking the executive to defer its implementation.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the resolution would only seek the lifting of the VAT on oil for a given period, so there was no need for another law.

In a speech she delivered in Bacolod City, Ms Arroyo said the "best" option of the government to ease the impact of higher oil prices was to reduce the tariff on petroleum products. *With Alcuin Papa and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Dennis Rodman lives up to bad boy image

From page A1

about to shed his bad boy image, wherever he may be in the world.

Although he was given the best in Filipino hospitality, Rodman was obviously not enjoying his visit here Thursday and snubbed the media.

Rodman was with the other National Basketball Association (NBA) "legends" for the "Bad Boy Tour" of the Philippines, and played against the San Miguel All Stars at the Mandaue City Sports Complex on Thursday evening.

As expected, the NBA Legends team easily won the game, 124-94, against the San Miguel All-Stars.

People, however, did not talk about the game as much as they talked about Rodman's sullen behavior that, Cebu officials said, was clearly noticeable the moment he stepped out of the plane from Manila at the Cebu-Mactan International Airport.

Eats banana wrapper

Rodman's foul mood was made worse by the fact that he ate *budbud*, a local delicacy of steamed sweetened rice cake wrapped in banana leaves, without knowing that he had to unwrap it first.

He had bitten half of the *budbud* and was already chewing it when he realized his mistake and spat it out. Rodman's face showed no reaction although there were amused smiles and laughter all around.

"No one knew if he was angry or not," said Cheryl Ouano, chair of the Mandaue City Sports Commission.

Ouano explained that Rodman together with the NBA legends paid a courtesy call on Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano.

Rodman was left behind in the mayor's office, while the other players were brought to the conference room for a snack. Ouano said she immediately briefed the NBA stars on how to eat the delicacies being served.

Very hungry

The NBA stars, she said, were laughing because they could not pronounce some of the names of the food. When Rodman arrived at the conference room, he took the *budbud* and ate it—wrapper and all.

Ouano said she had no time to explain to Rodman how to eat the delicacy. He seemed very hungry, perhaps because it was already past lunchtime.

"I said, 'Wait! wait!'" Ouano recalled, but Rodman was already chewing the *budbud*.

After the incident, Rodman went straight to the Waterfront Hotel and did not join the group for the lunch and press conference at Yo Latino, an upscale restaurant also owned by the Ouano family.

Ouano said that before the *budbud* incident, it had been difficult to approach Rodman because he looked withdrawn and serious.

She said Rodman could just be tired from his flight from Manila—which had been delayed—and wanted to rest for his scheduled game in the evening.

But sports reporters covering the game said Rodman did not stop scowling and was clearly in a foul mood.

Father wants reunion

Photojournalists who tried to take his picture were blocked by his bodyguards.

In Angeles City, Rodman's father, Philander, also wants to see his son. The two have been estranged for more than 40 years.

Philander first attempted to reunite with basketball's bad boy nine years ago and failed. Now 65, the old man wants another shot.

The INQUIRER caught up with him on Thursday at noon, drinking with three Fields Avenue habitués in a store run by ex-bar workers in Angeles City. He wore a red-and-white jersey emblazoned with his son's Chicago Bulls No. 91.

"I would really try to see him this time," he said, teary-eyed and voice cracking.

Philander retired from the service in 1977, remarried Paz, a Filipina, and settled in Angeles City.

'I did not abandon him'

He said he first tried to reunite with his son in Chicago on his 57th birthday on Feb. 11, 1997. He claimed he did not abandon Rodman, a son from his first marriage.

"I did not leave him or his mother (Shirley). I was in the military and she did not want to come with me to my assignment in the Philippines. Then she put bad things in his head," Philander said.

Rodman, born on May 13, 1961 in Trenton, New Jersey, was 4 years old when Philander moved to Clark in 1965.

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On the Subic rape case: YANKEES GO TO JAIL!

MEANWHILE, the scene outside the Makati courtroom quickly fills up with colorful banners with matching language carried by women activists.

REM ZAMORA

Judge rebuffs Gonzalez

From page A1

one of them had sex with the woman and that it was consensual.

Expunged from records

It had sought to downgrade the charges against the three others: S/Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Marine Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis.

The DOJ resolved that the three should be classified as accessories as they did not directly take part in the alleged crime but were only present when it occurred.

A principal may be sentenced to a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Accessories are liable to up to 20 years in jail.

With Pozon's order, the court would retain the original criminal complaint, in which all four Marines stand as principals.

Pozon also ordered that the amended information be "considered expunged" from court records.

Woman with bandana

Nicole has accused the Americans of raping her on board a cruising van inside the Subic freeport zone last Nov. 1.

Smith and his alleged coconspirators—entered the packed courtroom in civilian clothes accompanied by several Americans believed to be US Embassy staff.

The Marines, who have been in custody of the embassy, sat on a bench on the left side of the room facing the judge.

The rape victim's mother arrived with a woman whose head was covered with a bandana, partly obscuring her face. It was unclear if the woman was the victim.

'Justice for Nicole'

Journalists and photographers, who were not allowed inside the courtroom, had to peer through glass panels to see the proceedings inside the courtroom.

Only five media members were allowed into the courtroom.

About two dozen members of the women's group Gabriela picketed the courthouse, with placards saying, "Justice for Nicole," "Jail the Yankees" and "Rage Against Rape."

'Legal strategy'

"We didn't enter any plea because if we did, we would have waived our right to question the order of the court denying the amendment of the information," said Jose Justiniano, lawyer of Silkwood.

Rene Saguisag, one of the complainant's private lawyers, said: "I guess that's the better tactical approach ... I cannot blame them. I think they will raise all possible defenses available under the laws of the land. That's their professional and ethical duty," he said.

Justiniano said he would raise an appeal against Pozon's order before the Court of Appeals and he believed the court overstepped its functions.

SWAT escorts

Ursua said her group was happy with the court's decision.

"We proved that Gonzalez's resolution was wrong ... They (defense) cannot stop the process. The process has started and it will continue," said Ursua.

Clad in casual attire, the four accused arrived at 2:30 p.m., a half hour late for the hearing. Escorted by members of the Makati Police Station's Special Weapons and Tactics team, they were allowed to use the building's special express elevator—used only by city officials, judges, city prosecutors and other VIPs—to reach the courtroom.

"Just like any accused, the look of uncertainty is manifest in their faces, they really do not know what their future will be," said Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Ursua had a different impression of the Americans.

"They looked like the usual Marines who had no expression. We need to break stereotypes and myths here because if you look at them, they look very tame, but we all know what they did," said the lawyer.

'Don't be fooled by looks'

"The public should know that they look like tame puppies, but don't forget that they raped and abused a Filipina, treated her like a pig, threw her on the road. That's what they did. Let's not be fooled by their looks," she continued.

The court set the next hearing on May 12 for a preliminary conference.

Gonzalez says court action will weaken case vs 3

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ yesterday warned the rape case against three of four US Marines could weaken after a Makati court threw out a justice department resolution downgrading them from principals to accessories to the crime.

Gonzalez also said there were two possible defense witnesses who could "destroy" the case of the rape complainant but that the witnesses were not willing to come out with their testimony.

Asked whether the decision of the judge to retain Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Chad Carpentier as principals would affect the case, Gonzalez said: "I don't think there's any evidence on that. If there was an iota of evidence that could make them principals, I would not have hesitated to downgrade them to the level of accessories."

"I don't believe there's a case against them (Silkwood, Duplantis, Carpentier) as principals. There's a rape case against them, but not as principals. There are two credible witnesses who will destroy this case, if these two people will testify," he said.

He also said that defense lawyers planned to elevate the matter before the Court of Appeals.

But he said it would not affect the one-year trial period provided under the Visiting Forces Agreement, which only applies to the trial period following arraignment.

He took exception to the Makati judge's claim that the DOJ resolution recommending downgrading of the charges could affect the court's independence.

"The court has not acquired jurisdiction over the case yet," adding that the judge "should know that a resolution of the fiscal will always be brought to the secretary of justice for review."

Fr. Reuter presents 'other side' of the accused

From page A1

embassy official and retired US Marine now married to a Filipino woman, who approached him regarding the soldiers' request.

"They didn't have anything else to do and they wanted something to keep their mind (about). So I've been seeing them twice a week, almost since the time they were brought to the embassy."

And in those series of visits, he said, he has come to "know them more personally."

Outside the embassy, Smith and company would expectedly face the wrath of anti-US protesters or any Filipino citizen outraged by the alleged rape.

'Not at all wild'

They were, after all, accused of taking part in the rape of a 22-year-old Filipino woman in a rented van while going on a joyride at the Subic freeport. Smith allegedly had sex with the complainant while the rest watched and even "cheered" their comrade on.

But Reuter, who was careful not to touch on the merits of the case, gave a different picture of the four GIs.

"They are really clean-cut men, that's why I wanted the press to meet them. If you'd just talk to them, they make a very, very good impression; very soft-spoken, not at all wild," he said.

A few days before the arraignment, Reuter wrote the INQUIRER as director of the Catholic Church's National Office of Mass Media encouraging the paper to get an interview with the four accused.

In the letter, he noted that "all the publicity that these men have received" had been about the charges against them, statements from the alleged rape victim, and legal opinions of the lawyers or government officials involved."

Yesterday's court appointment, he said, was media's chance to "balance the picture" by interviewing the suspects even for a brief moment. (The suspects' escorts, however, whisked them quickly in and out of the courtroom, preventing any media interview.)

Personal backgrounds

Reuter also provided brief personal backgrounds on the suspects, the kind of information that has been withheld by their custodian, the US Embassy:

- Smith was 19 years old at the time of the incident. He celebrated his 20th birthday three weeks ago.
- Duplantis is 21 and was described by Reuter as "a gentle, soft-spoken" African-American.
- Silkwood, 22, is "the tallest of the four."
- Carpentier, 27, is the platoon leader. His wife and children are based in Okinawa. He has a 7-year-old son and a daughter who has just turned 4.

In the interview, Reuter said he had also been in contact with the soldiers' parents in the United States.

How to keep their chin up

Asked what kind of counsel the Marines have sought from him, he said: "How to stay cheerful, how to keep their chin up, how to smile, in this terrible, stressful situation."

"I try to give the word of God to them, to keep them cheerful, because they are very, very tense and very depressed, really," he added. "And I like them personally, that's one reason why I'm here."

Whomever God sends me

As someone who had endeared himself to Filipinos, why was he that willing to get involved in an emotionally charged case seen as a potential test of Philippine-US relations?

"Because I'm a priest, for heaven's sakes," he smiled. "I deal with Filipinos 99 percent of the time. Now I'm asked by an American. Am I going to say no?"

"I'm always praying to be worthy of the people who come to me, whom God sends to me."

Bishops, businessmen join Cory's anti-Cha-cha drive

From page A1

among the groups that could mount an information campaign for parishioners on the "truth" behind Charter change.

"On the basis of the information, we are confident that the parishioners would say no to Cha-cha," Paterno said. "When the time comes for a plebiscite or signature campaign, they can take the proper action."

The BBC is cochaired by Bishop Angel Lagdameo and businessman Ric Pascua.

The launch of STOP Cha-cha at Club Filipino in San Juan saw certain participants demanding a more active role from the Church in the face of the huge resources being employed by the government in pushing Cha-cha.

But Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, vice president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said Church leaders would keep off the political campaign.

He pressed the laity to "be at the forefront" by discerning the situation and taking concrete action.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo was unfazed. Speaking at the 16th National Convention of the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines at the Bacolod City Convention Center, she urged local government officials to continue to back her in the push to amend the Charter for a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

"Our political system is out of touch and leaving us behind the rest of Asia and the world whose parliamentary systems have done wonders to speed up their development," she told some 1,500 conference participants.

Commitment

Former President Corazon Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Senate President Franklin Drilon, lawmakers, businessmen, civil society and militant groups, and Cabinet members who quit last year at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal discussed ways to stop the "illegal, deceptive and immoral" people's initiative aimed at changing the presidential form of government.

They agreed to counter the administration's efforts with protest rallies, concerts, road shows and a *bawi-pirma* (recall the signature) campaign nationwide.

"It's important that each of us here make a commitment. I have to make a commitment again and again because there are some people who refuse to listen," Aquino said at the open forum.

"I've been called many names, and somebody said, 'Cory, don't you think you should keep quiet now?' But I feel that while I can still stand up, while I can still talk, I should speak out and voice what's in my mind and in my heart. Otherwise, I should not call myself a Filipino," she said.

Asked if she was still calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation, Aquino said: "That is included [in the campaign]."

To the streets

Drilon said the STOP Cha-cha campaign was also a means of preparation in case the Supreme Court revisited its 1997 injunction against a people's initiative and allowed it to be used to amend the Charter.

The high court had earlier barred the Commission on Elections from verifying signatures, saying there was no enabling law for the use of a people's initiative.

Sigaw ng Bayan, a coalition of pro-Cha-cha groups, has been gathering signatures and submitting them for authentication.

Drilon said STOP Cha-cha would take to the streets if the Supreme Court gave the thumbs-up to the people's initiative.

The others who turned up for the launch of the coalition included Representatives Francis Escudero, Benigno Aquino III, Erin Tañada, Etta Rosales, Rene Magtubo and Risa Baraquel, "Hyatt 10" members Corazon Soliman, Florencio Abad, Imelda Nicolas and Teresita Deles, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Lito Banayo of the United Opposition, University of the Philippines professor Randy David, Evelyn Singson of the Management Association of the Philippines, Marco de los Reyes of the National Union of Students of the Philippines, Ronald Llamas of Akbayan, Bettina Legarda of Bangon Pilipinas, Karen Tañada of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, and Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club.

Just say the word

Representatives of the Black & White Movement, Be Not Afraid of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and other groups were also present.

At the open forum, former Capiz Assemblyman Dandy Tupaz said one surefire way to stop Charter change on its tracks was for the Catholic Church to openly order the faithful "not to vote" for Cha-cha.

"If the bishops will say, 'Don't vote or ride on the train of Gloria,' then this is dead," he said, eliciting applause from portions of the crowd.

Ledesma, however, said the bishops were not given to making "political options" but only made statements "from the moral and pastoral dimension."

"We have stated that it's really the lay Christian that should be at the forefront—first by discerning the situation and then also moving for some concrete action to be taken," Ledesma said.

If at all, the CBCP stand on the issue is "a call for the Catholic faithful as well as men and women of goodwill to be involved in public affairs for the common good," he said.

Abad, a former education secretary, said the Church was the only institution that could match the government's "organizational reach" in the information battle over Cha-cha.

"We can't do this in Metro Manila. We have to go all the way to the villages, to the barangay. Apart from the military, the only other institution that has the reach is the Church," he said.

'Be like Sin'

Addressing Ledesma, Abad asked up to what extent the CBCP would go to link bishops, parishioners and Church-based groups to counter the administration's vigorous push, which he said was gaining momentum.

The archbishop replied: "We have started our information drive on ... the people's initiative. I believe that in many dioceses, that has been started. And maybe with gatherings like this, there will also be an increase in [the activities] of Church-based groups."

To this, Tupaz said: "If the CBCP stand is ambivalent, nothing will happen to us ... At least be like [the late Jaime] Cardinal Sin who was at the forefront of the fight that removed the dictator [Ferdinand Marcos]."

At this point Paterno rose to defend Ledesma. "The CBCP is refraining from political actions; [it's] only making judgment on the moral issue. If we have to hide behind the bishops to take action, we should be ashamed of ourselves," Paterno said.

Later, commenting on Tupaz's call on the bishops to emulate Sin, Ledesma told reporters: "These are all entirely different situations, and in a sense, the bishops are trying to discern what's really good for the people."

Clearing the way

In Bacolod, Ms Arroyo called on her supporters to back Cha-cha.

"The rough and tumble of partisan politics have strained our path with obstacles, but you have shown in your support for me that we can act to clear the way and now to clear the way for fundamental change founded on the deep-seated aspirations of the people," she said.

The President skipped mention of STOP Cha-cha and focused on convincing her audience why the 1987 Constitution should be changed now.

She said many countries had adopted a political system that made them prosperous.

"Let us join these developing and modernizing countries. Let us bring the country and our political system to the 21st century," she said.

She also thanked the vice mayors' league for its "commitment to work on informing the people and facilitating discussion on this very important change that will bring the Philippines to the 21st century."

"I thank you because you believe and you have expressed that we must continue to ignore the noisy political flak being fired at the ship of state, and you keep our sights on the prize of a better future," she said.

Protest caravan

But as the President was rallying the vice mayors to support her programs and policies, various groups in Bacolod were holding an anti-Cha-cha caravan, according to Felipe Gelle Jr., secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Negros.

Gelle said the protest actions were meant to "convey the message" to Ms Arroyo that Negrenses strongly opposed "her version of Charter change."

"[Ms] Arroyo's so-called Cha-cha train is, in reality, dilapidated. It is [being] torn down by illegitimacy, corruption cases and greed for power. It will not take the nation to progress but to further degradation," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cops deny they're scaring protesters

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

METRO MANILA POLICE YESTERday brushed off accusations that the discovery of grenades they said were intended to be used by Abu Sayyaf terrorists to bomb street protests was a ploy to frighten antigovernment demonstrators.

"These police operations we have been doing are all aimed at ensuring a peaceful May 1 celebration. We are taking preemptive measures," National Capital Region Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief Senior Supt. Asher Dolina said.

"We can accept that accusation rather than being blamed, once something wrong happens, that we did not do anything. Lives lost cannot be recovered," he added.

Dolina's team had announced on Thursday it had recovered six grenades and an improvised bomb in a house in Marikina City, and said it believed the bombs were to be used by the Abu Sayyaf on Labor Day protests.

The team had pointed out that the bombs were equipped with shrapnel aimed at hurting people. The suspects would have used high explosive chemicals if they just wanted to bomb buildings, it said.

Dolina said they were still running after 10-12 Abu Sayyaf members, who had been using the rented house in Marikina City as a storehouse of explosives and a meeting place to discuss the alleged plan.

He would not confirm whether the suspected Abu Sayyaf members, including Jojo Janjalani who is believed to be a relative of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani, were still in Metro Manila and could still carry on the alleged plot.

Dolina said investigators were looking into bank slips found inside the alleged terrorist hideout. One of the slips, he said, came from a bank in southern Philippines and bore the name of the person maintaining the account.

"We are trying to trace where the money came from and where it went," he said.

Militants saw in the reported seizure of explosives an elaborate "script" by the government to scare off people from joining protest actions on Monday.

They said that it was incredible that a month of monitoring the activities of suspected Abu Sayyaf men had failed to lead to a single arrest.

Gov't sees peace deal with Moro rebs in May

KUALA LUMPUR—THE PHILIPpine government is confident that a key hurdle to a peace accord with the country's largest Muslim separatist rebel group will be cleared soon, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said here yesterday.

Philippine negotiators might sign a preliminary pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Muslim territorial claims in the southern Philippines as early as next month, when both sides meet for talks in Malaysia, said Romulo during a visit to Kuala Lumpur.

"The most important thing is to overcome these (territorial claims), which is really the major issue," Romulo told reporters. "We are optimistic that this important part of the peace process ... will finally be concluded here."

Such a breakthrough could enable a comprehensive peace deal to be reached by September, Romulo said, noting that both sides have "come to an agreement basically" on various details.

Officials have previously said the issue includes the scope of Muslim claims to ancestral territory in the southern Philippines and their right to utilize and develop land.

"There is no problem whatsoever, but there has been a need for consultation with the stakeholders," Romulo said. "We need to go to the provinces, we need to go to the villages."

The MILF, which the Philippine military says has 11,000 members with more than 8,000 firearms, has been fighting for self-rule in the South for more than two decades. A 2003 ceasefire is in place while Malaysian-hosted negotiations are underway.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, who met Romulo to discuss bilateral issues, said his country hopes to help Philippine authorities plan measures to spur economic development in Mindanao, a volatile, impoverished region regarded as the Filipino Muslim homeland.

"Being close neighbors, Malaysia would like to see peace and prosperity prevail in the Philippines," Syed Hamid said, noting that Malaysia has both facilitated the peace talks and sent troops to monitor the ceasefire.

Malaysian officials said earlier this week both countries might cooperate in implementing socio-economic projects and to improve Islamic schools in the southern Philippines.

The United States has also vowed financial support for the area if a peace deal is signed, though some US officials suspect that certain MILF members may be collaborating with al-Qaida-linked Indonesian militants to plot attacks and hold terror training. *AP*

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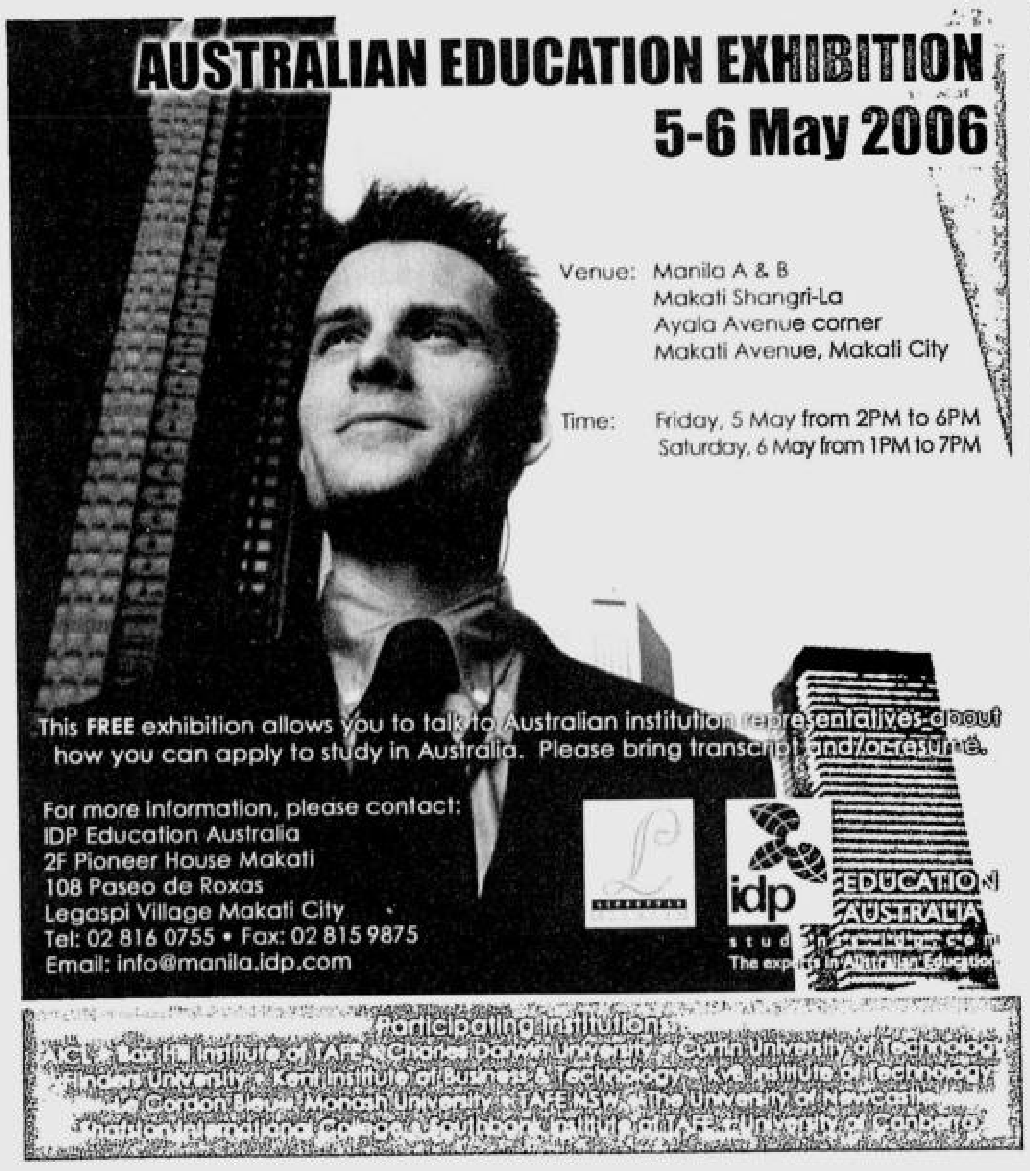
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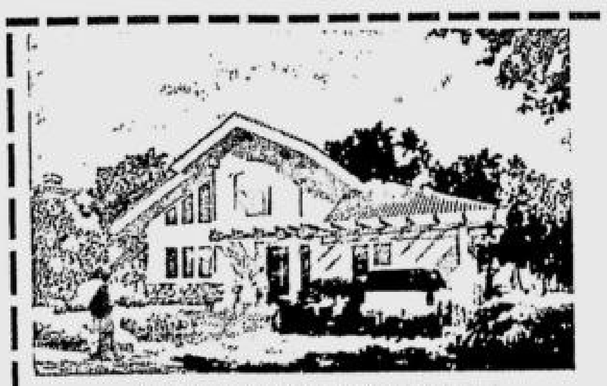

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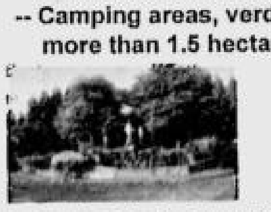

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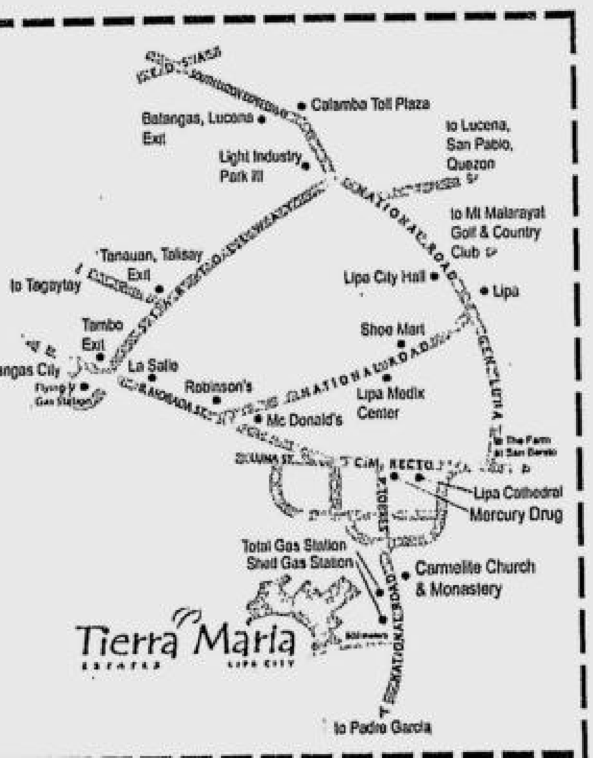

Prudentialife Founder and Chairman Ambassador Francisco A. Alba admiring the sunrise at Akean's "Bugtong-Bato", a rock landmark of Boracay Nuevo: where the sun rises!

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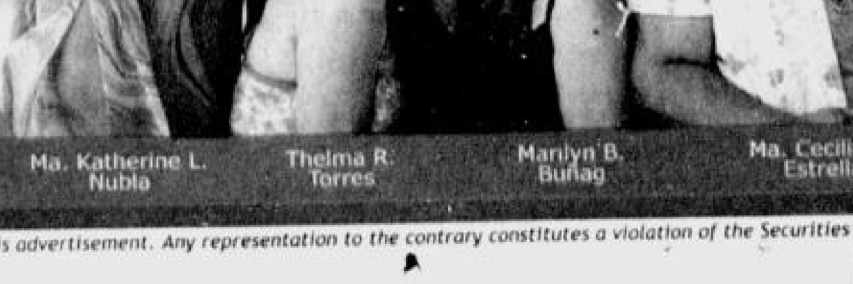
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006
ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 21 No. 140
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Circulation Customer Service Hotline 896-6000

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Bravado or ignorance?

Editorial

IT SEEMS TO ESCAPE FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson that their alleged complicity in an espionage case in the United States is serious. They continue to either shrug off or express surprise that their names have been dragged into the controversy. Their remarks betray their ignorance of the gravity of the scandal.

The disgraced former president and the senator, along with former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, have been cited by a US attorney as alleged participants in the unprecedented espionage case against Filipino Michael Ray Aquino and Philippine-born American Leandro Aragoncillo, a former White House analyst and intelligence agent, who allegedly downloaded several classified documents and e-mailed them to Estrada and the others.

Estrada dismissed the documents they received, saying there was nothing "classified" about them. "What I got were reports of the US Embassy about events that had happened here. There was nothing written there that we did not already know," he said.

Meanwhile, Lacson seemed to dare US authorities to indict them. "If they were going to indict us, they should have indicted us nine months ago," he said.

Their statements may indicate either bravado or ignorance. The information provided by Aragoncillo might or might not be new, but they were sourced from US intelligence files. And they were sourced from the White House system. The seriousness of the case is no laughing matter.

It may be that the intelligence data were culled from press reports about the Philippine situation, but the fact that they were contained in regular updates from the US Embassy in Manila should show that they were classified information—they were analyses of Philippine events that were officially classified as confidential.

The suspicion of American and Philippine authorities is that Aragoncillo and Aquino, who have connections with the political opposition here, were passing off the intelligence data to opposition groups seeking to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo. American prosecutors have, in fact, described Estrada as Aquino's godfather and Lacson as Aquino's mentor. The connections prefigure a twisted affair with grave repercussions.

President Arroyo may be prone to destabilization attempts because of questions about her legitimacy, but that her opponents received classified information from US sources should indicate the complicity of some Americans. The espionage case may yet become a diplomatic and geopolitical tinderbox.

It remains to be seen if American prosecutors are going to press the issue against Estrada, Lacson and Fuentebella. Lacson seems confident he would escape unscathed since he seems to dare, in a rather backhanded sort of way, the American prosecutors to indict him. But he has admitted he had received the documents, and whether they were revealing or not, the fact stands they were classified and had come from confidential White House files. The incident is embarrassing for him.

The incident is also embarrassing for the US government. Wittingly or not, it has allowed its own intelligence system to be used for what appears to be a dangerous campaign to destabilize another government. It may continue to camouflage its pronouncements in diplomatic niceties or judicial rhetoric, but it knows the issue is grave. The awareness seems absent in Estrada and his alleged co-conspirators.

Another day of carnage

Foreign Comment

ANOTHER CHAIN OF DEADLY BOMBINGS, ANOTHER DAY OF carnage and mourning and another stain on the image of the Arabs were added Tuesday to a long list of similar painful happenings in our region. Not much seems to be known about the murderous perpetrators, and speculation moves around a possible local grouping or the pernicious al-Qaida.

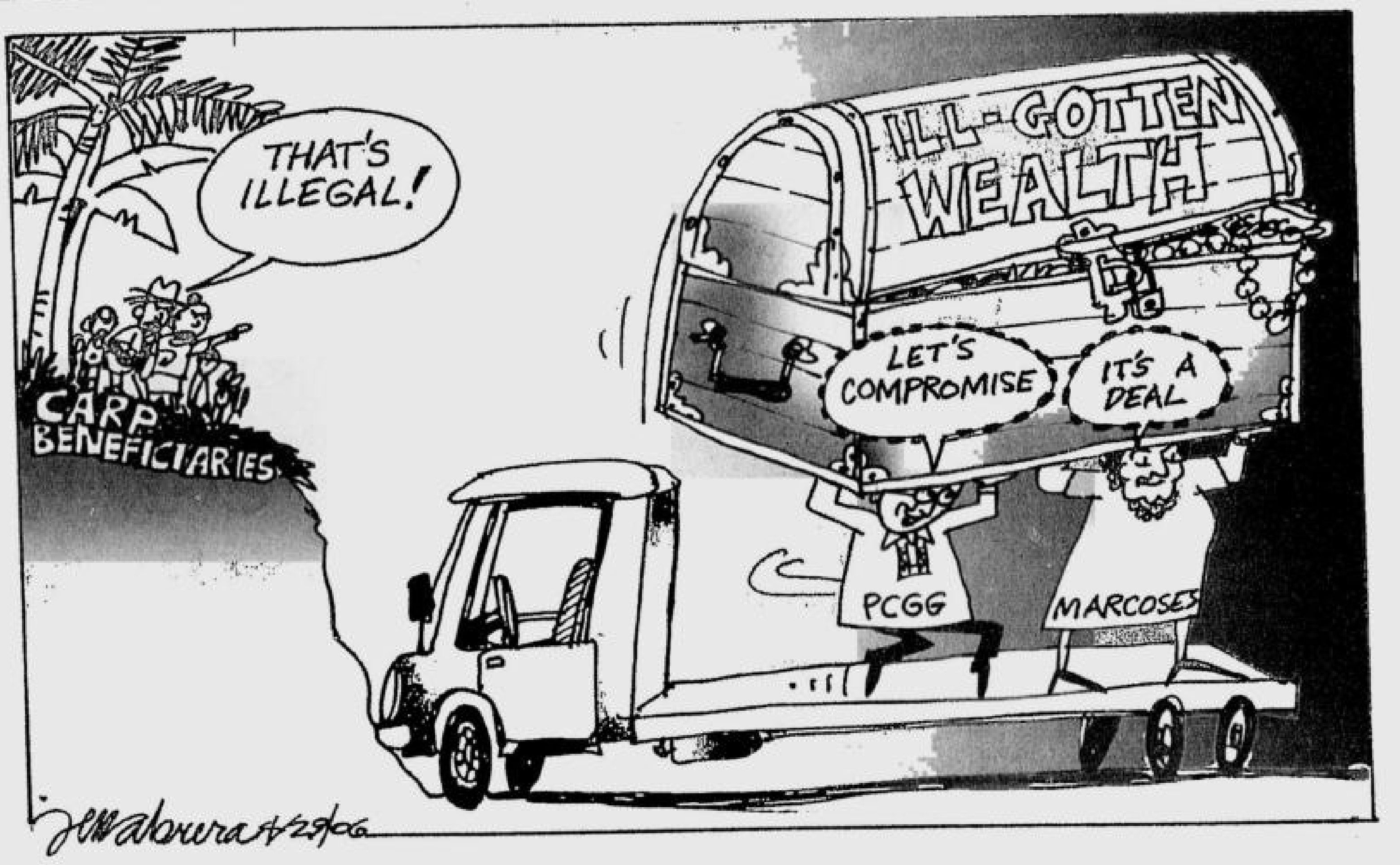
What is known is that the barbaric crime targeted Egyptians and places where they make their livelihood: a restaurant, a café and a supermarket. This shows hatred and a base nature, and has little to do with any "ideological" belief.

Together with heads of state, Islamic groups Hamas, Muslim Brotherhood condemned the attacks. The barrage of condemnations is reassuring. Humanity can still assert itself.

But citizens need to be alert as well. And governments should be reminded that unaddressed grievances often fester to bursting point, poisoning minds and debasing mankind.

The sooner the murderers are apprehended and brought to justice the faster we can leave behind another dark episode in this region plagued by destruction.

Jordan Times (Amman, Jordan)



A censuring contrast

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

ACCORDING TO A RECENT ISSUE OF TIME magazine, a poll commissioned by Buckingham Palace revealed that among several British institutions, the police obtained the highest approval rating from the people at 73 percent with the armed forces in second place at 72 percent. The Church of England ranked third at 51 percent followed by the Royal Family at 47 percent. The Parliament finished last at 43 percent.

Assuming that poll to be honest unlike some polls conducted by our own Malacañang Palace, we cannot help admiring the showing of the police and the armed forces of Britain which must really deserve the support and commendation of the people they have been serving with exemplary fidelity.

The bobbies of England are widely admired as respectable keepers of the peace and Scotland Yard is known throughout the world as the upright nemesis of criminals. The bravery of the British soldier has been extolled from the time of Shakespeare to Churchill and up to the present, to glorify the armed forces of what used to be the British Empire on which the sun never set.

I know comparison is odious, but the results of that London poll raise the unavoidable contrast with a similar poll that may be held here to examine the record of some of our own counterpart institutions. Such assessment will fill us with a sense of helplessness and self-blame for tolerating their flagrant excesses.

Almost every day, there are reports of policemen involved in holdups and robberies and extortions, let alone drunkenness and other kinds of misbehavior that besmirch their image as the principal law enforcers in this country. Only recently a former head of the National Bureau of Investigation was discovered to have acquired multimillion-peso assets not commensurate with his modest salary. Some law agents have fled the country to escape prosecution for crimes they have committed rather than prevented.

Unlike the armed forces that ranked second in the esteem of the British public, ours are disdained in this country for their unbelievable depravity. The generals seem to have conspired among themselves to monopolize graft in the military. There are angry protests from the junior officers, some because they have not been allowed to share in the loot and others out of an outraged sense of honor.

Several generals are now facing prosecution for the heinous crimes of malversation and bribery, while others have been accused of committing election irregularities for which they have been rewarded with questionable promotions.

The Church of England is a purely religious institution, but the supposedly pious groups in our country exert considerable influence in political instead of spiritual matters. That is the reason why candidates for public office court many of these sects for their elective favors that are suspiciously extended not in recognition of high credentials but to the highest bidders. The cost is like the 30 pieces of silver paid by the sanctimonious high priests in Jerusalem who corrupted Judas.

The less said about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the Elizabeth II in the Philippines, the better. Our own queen suffers dismally in comparison with the real Queen who sits on her throne by rightful ascension. GMA's title is in serious question in view of the irregularities in the 2004 election and the misdeeds of her current administration. Among these were Executive Order No. 464 which was recently struck down by a unanimous if somewhat diffident Supreme Court, and the recently denounced "calibrated" ban on lawful assemblies. And there are other controversial measures, like the widely abhorred Proclamation 1017, still awaiting the just and fearless verdict of the magistrates.

What distinguishes the British Parliament from our Congress is our House of Representatives. The appropriately named Lower House is a disgrace to the people and our legislative history. Except for a few admirable exceptions, its conduct has been directed—or misdirected—by Malacañang, of which it is an obedient annex.

The Senate, which is traditionally independent of the Executive Department, is often frustrated by the other chamber's subservience to the President's imperative ambitions. Now there are schemes to abolish the Senate and replace Congress with a Parliament consisting of the disreputable members of the House of Representatives.

When will the Filipino people wake up and protest? Have we become so punch drunk from the abuses of our leaders that we have lost the will and the strength to resist and punish them? We are the sovereign people but we are in bondage to our so-called public servants. It is time to reverse these ridiculous roles and give real meaning to our flaccid democracy.

No role model

Get Real

Solita Collas-Monsod

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE CAVITE State University graduation incident, where Maria Theresa Pangilinan and another graduating student interrupted the ceremonies (and President Macapagal-Arroyo's speech) by shouting and waving banners, closely followed by some members of the audience (definitely not parents) doing more of the same.

As usual, sides have been taken along partisan or ideological lines, with those linked to the administration making Pangilinan out to be a heel, a law-breaker, a criminally inclined individual if not yet a criminal actually, while those linked to the opposition regard her as a heroine, some kind of modern-day Joan of Arc, a role model for the younger generation. I stand somewhere in the middle.

If Secretary Raul Gonzalez had his way, he would throw the book at Pangilinan, citing Articles 153 and 154 of the Revised Penal Code, which penalize those who "cause any serious disturbances in a public place, office, or establishment, or shall interrupt or disturb public performances, functions or gatherings, or peaceful meetings," and those who "by the same means, or by words, utterances or speeches shall encourage disobedience of the law or the constituted authorities or praise, justify or extol any act punished by law." He has pointed out "aggravating circumstances": where the crime is committed "in the palace of the chief executive or in his presence, or where public authorities are engaged in the discharge of their duties." Which means that the penalty could be closer to the longer period prescribed by the law, which is from six months to two years in prison.

Chill, Mr. Secretary. In the first place, if you decide to apply those penal code provisions fairly, you are going to have to put in jail almost everyone, including Speaker Joe de Venecia and his pro-Cha-cha group, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Commission on Elections and their underlings who have, by their so-called people's initiative, encouraged disobedience of the law and of the Supreme Court ruling on it. You can't ignore them while you pick on this 23-year-old youth. That would add "bully" to the list of pejoratives that have been used to describe you.

In the second place, if you lay a finger (figuratively) on that girl, you will be not only blowing the incident out of proportion, but you will be making a martyr out of her. Not only those in her age group, but also parents in general, will be incensed by the heavy-handedness and the bias, starting with the 1,500-odd students who did not join her or applaud her actions during the commencement ceremonies and their parents. They were the ones hurt by the disruption of the ceremonies (certainly not the President, who has been subjected to infinitely more disrespect from her colleagues in politics), but their disapproval will surely turn to sympathy.

But if Pangilinan is no criminal, she is no saint either. No role model is she. Her actions were certainly not well thought out, because she could have achieved her objective (if it was to give maximum embarrassment to the President or to serve as a rallying point for the students, she failed in both) without dissing the parents of the graduating students as well as the ceremony itself. How? It must be remembered that Pangilinan had the opportunity to very effectively put her point across which was not available to other students. One, she was a student regent, and two, she was head of the student government.

As the student representative in the university's Board of Regents, she was in an excellent position to object to inviting the President as commencement speaker, and she could have had her reasons read into the minutes—a cold, objective critique, not hysterics. Which would have gotten more attention, and certainly more publicity and respect—imagine, a student behaving with more dignity and rationality than her elders! Instead, she was silent when the invitation was discussed.

That she would be in the minority is certainly no excuse for not even making her views known (she was in a much smaller minority during the graduation). Because then, she still had a second ace up her sleeve: her position as head of the student government. This put her in a position to lead the graduating students (if they so desired) to protest the invitation—perhaps even forcing the university to rescind the invitation (or the President to decline). A series of campus protests would have generated the attendant publicity over an even longer period of time, and would have increased respect for her and her kind.

And if the students weren't with her, a third ace was available in meeting the President's party in front of the graduation venue with her group (probably left-leaning, from the organizational names), with the requisite banners and chants. That, too, would have garnered publicity, and still have earned respect for her perseverance and principles.

These alternatives were far superior to heckling (it is ironic that for all their anti-American rhetoric, they are slavish in their imitation of American customs). But she chose to do the latter, in the process disrupting a ceremony that for the vast majority of parents attending was the culmination of all their dreams for their children, and spoiling their day.

To top it all, she proceeded to go up the stage and shake the hand of a person she characterized as a liar and a cheat.

Not my idea of a role model.

Water wars

WORLD VIEW

Michel Rocard

WHAT IS MORE VITAL FOR THE FUTURE OF humanity—and life in general—than water?

Water abounds in nature, and most of humanity will have lived more than 10 millenniums without ever wondering about it.

We draw it, use it, throw it away, most often back into rivers or oceans. But we could very soon end up not having enough of the fresh water that accounts for just 3 percent of all the water available on our planet. When one considers the fights we are capable of having over oil, one shudders to imagine where a lack of water could lead. While Latin America seems well endowed, the situation is very different elsewhere. Europe is nearing its limits, and water scarcity is already a pressing issue in Africa, Central Asia and China.

Over the last 20 or 30 years, we have begun to comprehend what is at stake, owing to initiatives like the World Water Forum, which held its fourth annual meeting in March. Unfortunately, the Forum is not yet an official body and has no decision-making power. But providing an arena for thought and debate has brought at least one huge benefit: greater awareness about water issues among the public and policymakers.

Water management is an inherently difficult challenge, and experience counts a lot. Practice shows that local levels of government provide the most efficient water management, even if regulations must necessarily be national in scope. But this is a division of labor that few national governments are ready to accept.

Nor do most states seem prepared to start a real dialogue over water policy with civil society groups. At one extreme of exclusion, for example, consider that decisions about water management are largely taken by men, though in most of the world it is women who use the water. Moreover, interference is constant, and inevitable, between the public and the private sectors. A subtle mix of official regulation and private contracting is required. But not all jurisdictions respond in the same way.

The multiplicity of interlocutors inevitably creates a multiplicity of water systems with vastly unequal levels of efficiency. Initiatives like the World Water Forums thus inevitably highlight debates about what constitutes good water management, as well as elaborating useful concepts.

> Water has a cost, and someone, either end-users or taxpayers, has to pay it. It is possible, of course, to envision sharing the costs, but it is no longer possible not to charge for water

One casualty of such debates has been the myth that water is free. Water has a cost, and someone, either end-users or taxpayers, has to pay it. It is possible, of course, to envision sharing the costs, but it is no longer possible not to charge for water.

The most recent World Water Forum debated two issues that will confront policymakers in the years ahead. The first concerns the so-called "right to water." The urgency of the needs, with a billion people lacking access to drinking water and two billion without proper sewer systems, together with the vast number of diseases that result, underscore the need to recognize such a fundamental human right. A consensus was reached at the Forum that such a right makes sense only if it is formulated in such a way that particular policymaking entities, be they water companies or local governments, face an affirmative duty to respect this right.

Only the state can be made responsible here. But the acknowledged responsibility of states in implementing the right to water cannot turn them into the sole paying authority. The state must be charged with ensuring an effective water system that meets the basic needs of all, but the balance of this system remains to be defined. These uncertainties, indeed, led the Forum to avoid acknowledging a formal right to water in its final resolution.

The second issue concerned the role of local authorities. Despite the political and administrative centralization of most of the countries represented at the Forum, there was widespread agreement that the most efficient water systems are managed as close as possible to the resource and its users. Agreement on this provided a real breakthrough for the future of water policy.

Naturally, conflicts among governments or local authorities and private enterprises resurfaced. Inevitably, the cruel lack of means was pointed out time and again. And, unsurprisingly, the lack of solidarity among water haves and have-nots was openly on display at the Forum.

As we grapple with our joint water future, we will face a time of trial and error in finding workable solutions. But humanity already seems to be making more progress on matters related to drinking water than other global threats, such as climate change. We should all drink to that.

Project Syndicate

Michel Rocard, a former prime minister of France and leader of the Socialist Party, is a member of the European Parliament.

'Day without Immigrants'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HOLLYWOOD FIGURES LIKE EDWARD JAMES Olmos, who is of Mexican descent, Salma Hayek, who is Mexican, John Leguizamo, who is Colombian, and Oscar-winning (for "Brokeback Mountain") composer Gustavo Santaolalla, who is from Argentina, have expressed their support for a nationwide boycott on May 1 called by the immigrant community in the United States.

Organizers of the boycott, led mostly by Latino immigrant groups, have called on immigrants, documented or undocumented, and even citizens who can trace their lineage to immigrants, to "abstain from work, studies or purchasing" on that day to show their displeasure over the pending passage of legislation designed to eliminate illegal immigration into the United States and crack down on employers of illegal migrants.

The action has been dubbed "A Day without Immigrants," conceived as a way of showing American society how important migrants really are in daily life. Or as a leader in a Chicago rally observed: "If one day there were no immigrants, you would have no coffee in the restaurants, no waiters, no cooks, nor clean beds in the hotels."

Santaolalla expressed his sentiments much more poetically: "We have to demand respect and dignity, because we are all workers and because we are already part of the DNA of this country."

Perhaps that's the problem with being part of a "nation's DNA": you become invisible. The "Day without Immigrants" should demonstrate to ordinary Americans, as well as to politicians across the political spectrum, not just the many important roles that immigrants assume in America's economic and social life, but also the strength and influence of the migrant community. Reports have said that politicians were stunned at the large turnouts in rallies called across numerous cities in the wake of the controversial law.

* * *

WHILE Latino artists have lent their celebrity power to the staging of the May 1 boycott, in part in response to the participation and leadership of Latino migrant advocacy groups, Filipino migrant leaders and organizations have been little heard from.

Even as Hawaii celebrated the centennial of the arrival of the first Filipino migrant laborers who toiled in the pineapple and sugarcane fields, the relative silence of Filipino groups on this latest political upheaval proves how Filipino-Americans remain "invisible" in the American landscape.

This is strange, since migrant issues are of primary importance to the Fil-Am community where "TNTs" (for *tago nang tago*) abound. "*Tago nang tago*" means "forever hiding," referring to overstaying or undocumented migrants who usually enter a country as tourists then look for work and spend the rest of their time dodging authorities.

Many reasons have been cited for this development, including the inability of Filipino groups to maintain their solidarity, splintering into rival organizations after every dispute; the composition of the migrant population, with most preoccupied with demanding work that leaves them little time for civic involvement; as well as the ease with which Filipinos have been able to integrate into the larger community, which ironically has deprived them of a unique identity and a rallying point.

* * *

THE "DAY WITHOUT IMMIGRANTS" website listed the main demands of the coalition: a "path to citizenship" for migrant workers, and not a "temporary guest worker" program; a family reunification program; the grant of protective measures even to undocumented workers; and full rights for all migrants.

But even Filipinos in the Philippines would do well to follow developments around the "Day without Immigrants" movement. As a major "sending" country of migrant workers, not just to the United States but to practically every country that has a marginally better economy than ours (and even some that are doing worse), the Philippines stands to benefit from a better understanding of the issue by leaders of major "receiving" countries.

In every international conference where migration has emerged as a concern, country delegations invariably divide between "sending" and "receiving" nations. "Family reunification" is a particularly thorny issue. "Sending" nations assert that no country has the right to keep parents separated from their children indefinitely due to migration restrictions, and that keeping one's family intact is a basic human right. "Receiving" nations, on the other hand, see allowing the reunification of families splintered by illegal migration as tantamount to rewarding law breakers.

I suppose another reason for their recalcitrance is that "family" is a highly elastic concept, especially for Filipinos, who may view family ties as extending to several degrees of consanguinity.

* * *

THE MAY 1 boycott should also prompt us to take another look at our own immigration policies. Our laws governing the granting of naturalized citizenship, for instance, are among the most complicated, difficult and graft-ridden processes in the world.

While we insist that other governments look upon Filipino migrant workers as productive citizens who contribute valuable services to their host countries and infuse these with their creativity, productivity and entrepreneurial activity, we Filipinos often take a dim view of other migrants on our shores. Too often we look at them as exploiters and workers stealing jobs and earning opportunities. Witness the "raids" that have been conducted on traders at the 168 mall.

Then, too, we tend to view migrants along stereotypical lines, such as ethnic Indians whom we portray as villainous usurers preying on small-time traders, even if their own clients attest that the practitioners of "five-six" provide a valuable source of accessible credit which bigger institutions can't be bothered with.

Death penalty not a crime deterrent

COMMENTARY

Jigger S. Latoza
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE EASTER SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT OF President Macapagal-Arroyo commuting all death sentences to life terms has resurrected the debate over the death penalty.

Leaving aside the legal issues and questions about the real motivation of the President in making that now controversial decision, the commutation is laudable. It's high time that the Death Penalty Law (RA 7659) is repealed.

It will be recalled that RA 7659 was enacted in 1994—despite the fact that the 1987 Constitution abolished capital punishment and implicitly discouraged its reimposition—as a state response to the constantly rising crime incidence. It was argued that the ultimate punishment of death for heinous crimes would deter criminality. When Congress finally weighs the issues in connection with pending bills seeking the repeal of RA 7659, the lawmakers should go back to this basic question: Is the death penalty really an effective deterrent to criminality?

It's a pity that social scientists in our country have not looked into the relationship between the crime rate and capital punishment, leaving this open to speculation every time the question of the deterrent effect of the death penalty is raised. This is another example of the lack of appreciation of expert opinion and empirical evidence in government's legislative processes and policymaking.

In the absence of local data on this, we turn to studies done in the United States which have concluded that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. The New York Times, which commissioned a study on this question in 2000, reported that from 1980 to 2000, or a span of 20 years, the homicide rate in states where the death penalty is in force has been 48 to 101 percent higher than in states without it. This finding is consistent with what the US Federal Bureau of Investigation found: 83.33 percent of states which do not impose the death penalty have crime rates lower than the national average. Researchers involved in these studies have pointed out that "the threat of execution at some future date is unlikely to enter the minds of those acting under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, those who are in the grip of fear or rage, those who are panicking while committing a crime such as robbery..."

On the contrary, US studies have produced evidence that in states or counties where it is imposed, the death penalty seems to have a "brutalizing effect." Researchers Keith Harries and Derral Cheatwood, in probing differences in the incidence of homicide in 293 paired counties, observed that "there are higher violent crime rates in death penalty counties" than in non-death penalty ones.

Significantly, the US Bureau of Justice Statistics has noted that the South, which accounted for 80 percent of the executions in 1999, had the highest murder rate while the Northeast, with less than 1 percent of executions, had the lowest.

According to Amnesty International-USA, when Oklahoma resumed executions after a 25-year moratorium, a significant increase in murders was reported.

There are other researches that yielded similar results which I have not cited here due to space constraints. These scientific studies underscore one thing: The death penalty is not an effective crime deterrent.

What deters criminality for certain, as many studies have established, is the certainty of being caught and punished. Apparently, it's the thought, reinforced by observations and experiences, that one can commit crimes without being caught and punished that triggers lawlessness in this country. It's the belief that the system is corruptible and that one can go scot-free because of influence or wealth that drives people to commit the most heinous of crimes. Indeed, in the act of committing an offense—be it as petty as stealing P100 or as grave as plundering millions—does one first think of the corresponding punishment or of the probability of being caught and being brought to justice?

Of course, we badly need similar studies within our national context to make informed judgments and legislation on the matter. But in the absence of such studies, we cannot afford to use mere conjecture as a basis for holding on to the death penalty. We are dealing here with human life. Given the fallibility of judicial systems, the probability of executing an innocent person is always there. And this may be especially true in the Philippines, where the criminal justice system has been constantly under attack for corruption, conspiracy with criminals, ineffectiveness and other internal and external weaknesses that widen the margin for erroneous, and unfortunately irreversible, impositions of the death penalty.

The doctor is out

YOUNG BLOOD

Czarinah Pagay, M.D.

I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL WISTFUL THESE DAYS. NINE years ago, as a wide-eyed medical student, I was swearing to myself that I would serve humanity and my less fortunate countrymen. Now I have become a pale shadow of myself, tending mere embers of what used to be fires of idealism.

To hang the stethoscope and trade it for a nurse's immaculate white apron and stockings is a surreal experience. A number of our colleagues in the profession still shake their heads when they hear that another one is selling out for a US visa. Since I shared these sentiments a year ago, even laughing at classmates who jumped into the bandwagon of doctors-turned-nurses, I now feel humbled—but rather surprisingly, also relieved.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

Just a few weeks ago, I was stripped of my intellectual snobbery as I pledged to be a disciple of Florence Nightingale. During our capping ceremony, I could not help but note the bitter irony of seeing years of burning the midnight oil in study and giving up my youth for medical training culminate in my wearing a crisp, white head cap.

Existentialists say that acceptance is the key to maintaining one's sanity amid absurdity. I am trying to smile amid the unreality of it all. I am one of the growing army of restless professionals who are throwing in the towel after reaching the plateau of their careers even before they have started.

It is weird to witness lawyers, accountants, dentists and physical therapists receive their second diplomas. But the shock soon wears out and it is with deep sadness that you realize that you are but symbols of a national desperation. You see no bright prospects in the coming years—just limitless opportunities to practice charity work. But you also want and deserve to live the good life, too. You want to make sure your family is financially secure and, further down the road, to retire in comfort. The vow of poverty is not part of the Hippocratic oath.

Five years into practice, from moonlighting as a physician to completing residency in a government tertiary hospital, the heroine in stethoscope feels lost after seeing and touching so much poverty and sickness. She can only wring her hands in despair after treating countless Mang Pandoys, who have been forsaken and neglected in their deathbeds by a government that thinks cutting the budget for health is smart. Believe me, you lose all your romantic notions after witnessing a child breathe his last due to a diarrhea that could have been easily prevented. If his penniless parents only had the money for transportation, they could have brought him earlier for medical consultation and he would have lived. Or perhaps if the family lived in more sanitary conditions with potable drinking water, he would not have been sick in the first place.

Doctors have a reputation for being apolitical. We do not march in the streets to denounce archaic hospital facilities or complain about our ridiculously meager salaries. But we can only do so much, with our training and our skills, as our patients waste away from common illnesses due to their inability to buy life-saving medications. If you were shocked by the sight of a sea of people waiting for manna to fall from heaven in a noontime game show and the tragedy that struck them, then take a look at the long queue of patients seeking help from charitable organizations or the public service arm of a television network . These are, of course, the poor's last resort after they have solicited help from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and other social service agencies of the government.

These dirt poor people who are left to pick up crumbs to keep body and soul together are the same people who marched during Edsa Dos. In their helplessness, they are only too willing to follow the directions of another patron.

Coming from the middle class, I count myself lucky. With the knowledge and training I have acquired, I can seek new opportunities in foreign shores where I can expect to get my due as a professional. If this nation thinks that paying $200 to a doctor here is equivalent to $5,000 to a nurse abroad and should be enough compensation for our toil and brains, I am not going to play a martyr. We doctors are just like every decent, hard-working citizen of this country who has the instinct of self-preservation. We are trying to stay afloat even as the nation seems to be sinking. Government officials can continue to bicker until one day they have to go to a hospital—only to find it empty. We boast about the brawn we send overseas, but if we lose our brain as well, what is going to happen to this country?

Since I am young and broke, this could all be useless bellyaching. But couldn't it also be the valid complaints of a thinking citizen of this country? Although some of our colleagues remain hopeful about our country's future, I don't think I can stay longer, waiting for a miracle. I am turning 30 in a few months, with only one ton of medical textbooks and a stethoscope for assets. And I still owe my parents half a million pesos in medical school tuition. A doctors cannot save lives if his own is in peril.

If these conditions continue, Filipinos will soon be seeing signs being hung in medical clinics that read: "Sorry, but the doctor is out and the nurses are also away indefinitely. For emergencies, please contact your faith healer. Thank you."

Czarinah Pagay, M.D., 29, works as a company physician and teaches part-time in a nursing school. She will be taking the nursing board exams some time this year and hopes to earn a certification in the United States next year.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Step for unity

"We have no time to quarrel. I want to see Thai people unite and forget what has happened."

—Embattled Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, announcing he would step down from office after meeting with his country's revered monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej

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Charter change and commutation

THE MAMAMAYANG TUTOL Sa Bitay commends President Macapagal-Arroyo's order commuting the death sentence of 1,205 death row convicts to life imprisonment.

The order was timely because of the celebration of Easter Sunday, but the question is: Why only now when the power to commute has been with her for some time? With the government campaigning for Charter change, I can't help but ask: Is there a hidden agenda behind the commutation?

I sympathize with the families of the victims of heinous crimes and join their call for justice. Kidnapping, drug trafficking, rape and other crimes must be stopped and there should be justice, but not barbaric justice.

Imposing the death penalty does not in any way offer the offender the opportunity to reform and to contribute to the good of society.

—LECIE D. ARCE,
secretariat,
Mamamayang Tutol Sa Bitay-Movement for Restorative Justice, Blk. 8, Lot 24,
NHA 2 Agdao, Davao City

Armed forces perfectly united

REACTING TO AN ESCAPED Magdalo soldier's threats against the Arroyo administration, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said, "They may be plotting to kill the President. It's the only logical thing to do."

The Magadalo soldiers, who were smart enough to escape detention, won't make a martyr out of Barabbas. And if indeed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has already been crucified by critics, according to disciple Raul Gonzalez (her justice secretary), the majority of Filipinos here and abroad know which of Golgotha's three crosses she's hanging from.

If GMA were assassinated, Noli de "Clueless" would be president. Or let's draw from the Ninoy Aquino experience: We'd have a major infrastructure named after GMA, Bangko Sentral would put her mug on a new paper bill, her spouse could later become president, and her daughter would be a show-biz darling.

GMA is not loved by many (unlike Kennedy, Gandhi, Aquino); neither is she heavensent (unlike Wojtyla), but she'd love to be inducted into this circle of greats. So if it's an assassination the rebel soldiers are cooking up, then logic needs to be taught in military schools better.

AFP chief, Gen. Generoso Senga, withdrew from Security Adviser Gonzales' reasoning and Justice Secretary Gonzalez's proselytizing. He tried advertising instead: "*Ang Hukbong Sandatahan ng Pilipinas ay buong buo.*" (The AFP is perfectly whole.)

And here are some truths that Senga, perhaps, saw: (1) The Magdalo soldiers are not rebels. They want to be detained so they can work on their master's degrees or diploma courses at UP Open University. (2) West Point graduate Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and his Scout Rangers were just griping about not getting "meals ready to eat" when they go on tours of duty. Sacks of rice and pots and pans are quite funny loads. (3) The Marines came in full battle gear to their headquarters to see Col. Ariel Querubin auditioning for an action picture role. *Buong buo.*

The escaped Magdalo soldiers, meanwhile, are trying their hands at marketing. One had himself interviewed by Che-Che Lazaro to present us a teaser of their newest enterprise, and his brothers in detention are studying management and entrepreneurship.

So we can conclude: Gonzales has "fuzzy logic," and Gonzalez's gospel is "uninspired"; Senga can't put up an advertising agency, and the Magdalo entrepreneurs are better off studying at Wharton. And maybe it's time for a classified ads section for putsch stylists and Palace sycophants.

—PIO ROCES,
lunastimus@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Unmistakably a terminal

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE letter of Florencio Mateo, chief of the Traffic and Parking Management Office, regarding the terminal in a stretch of a service road in Baclaran, near Heritage Hotel. (PDI 4/10/06)

Mateo denies that the place is being used as a terminal and argues that it is just a designated area for loading and unloading passengers. He proceeds to explain that "as a policy, the mayor does not allow the opening of new bus and jeepney terminals in Pasay City because they usually cause traffic jams."

I am one of the thousands of people who regularly go to Baclaran to shop for cheap, imported items. The terminal is an unmistakable sight for Baclaran shoppers and devotees. Whether or not it has been officially designated by the Pasay City government as one is another story.

Whether or not an official receipt is issued to those who use it is also another story. I believe that the concerned Pasay City officials are aware that the place is in fact being used as a "parking" terminal.

But one thing sure, it is definitely not just a loading and unloading area as Mateo would like the public to believe. I recognize a designated loading and unloading area when I see one, whether it is along Edsa, Ayala Avenue, or some other major road.

Three rectangular lots—each of which has a size of about 1,000 square meters—where up to 100-200 jeepneys, buses and even 40-foot container vans are allowed to park, could not be just a loading and unloading area. Especially, when in those places "parking rates signboards" are posted.

—VERONICA ABAD,
venny_abad@yahoo.com

Reviving Metro Manila's rivers

THE COLUMN OF NEAL H. Cruz, titled "Dying town and river can still be saved" (PDI 4/19/06), touched us deeply. The steady deterioration of Malabon, once a scenic and thriving town, is typical of many other coastal towns in our country today. But the fate of Malabon is also unique, in the sense that as a part of Metro Manila, its environmental degradation has been rapid.

Local officials of the towns and cities of Metro Manila should therefore support the project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to clean up and revive the principal rivers (and their tributaries) in the Metro Manila area, especially the Pasig River which serves as an outlet for most waterways in the area.

Cruz is right in saying that the reason Malabon is flooded for long periods during the year is that its rivers have been choked and killed by factories and other constructions due to poor urban planning. The Pasig, which is the principal river providing an outlet for floodwaters in Metro Manila, has also been silted and is practically dead. Efforts to dredge the Pasig and restore it to its pristine glory have failed due to lack of political will.

The DENR seems to have the right idea in conceiving of a "holistic" plan to restore and enhance the natural environment of Metro Manila by cleaning up its principal waterways and tributaries, including the Pasig, so that floodwaters can easily flow to the sea as nature intended them to.

Clearly, this would require a Herculean effort, but with the cooperation of the local governments of Metro Manila, this can be done. The effort will also mean additional jobs for the unemployed in the metropolis, while the expenses will be eventually compensated by greater progress and savings on the health expenditures of Metro Manila governments.

—FLORIAN VILLASENOR,
622 Vanguard St., Aeropark,
Better Living Subdivision,
Parañaque City

Meralco customers need straightforward answers

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE letter, "Nothing wrong with Meralco writing GMA," (PDI, 4/22/06) of Elpi Cuna Jr.

We expected Cuna to give us straightforward answers (which we, as Meralco's captive customers, fully deserve). After all, Cuna is working for a public utility.

Anyway, Cuna failed to answer the observation that two of the five conditions under Section 31 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) have yet to be complied with as requisites for the initial implementation of open access and retail competition.

It is not Meralco's desire to open up its contestable market to competition, but the compliance with Epira's requisites to retail competition that will pave the way for open access.

Cuna also failed to clarify concerns about possible tradeoffs behind Meralco's letter to the President. We are not surprised, though, because the failure only reflects the many failures of Meralco.

Among these is Meralco's non-compliance with Section 23 of the Epira, which mandates distribution utilities to source the least cost supply of electricity. As a result of this failure, the Philippines now has the highest electricity rate in Asia—$0.18 /kWh compared to Japan's $0.17/kWh.

We hope the Energy Regulatory Commission and the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) will do something about this.

—DR. BONIFACIO DAZO,
president, Federation of Las Piñas Village Associations,
SIEGFRIEDO VELOSO,
president, Federation of Village Associations in Muntinlupa,
EPIMACO MAGPANTAY,
president, Federation of Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque Homeowners' Association, Parañaque City,
homeowners_federation@yahoo.com

A disappointing apology

WHAT A DISAPPOINTING REMARK FROM A Catholic priest. "I hope you will forgive the Catholic Church," Bishop Antonio Tobias told President Estrada for the role of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin in the 2001 Edsa Revolution. (PDI, 4/20/06) What an immature and irresponsible remark, and it was made by a priest during a homily. Bishop Tobias wasn't even supposed to be thinking or speaking for the Catholic Church.

Whether he was making a political statement about his dismay at the Arroyo administration, or showing his staunch support for and loyalty to Estrada, his apology sounded like it was meant to acquit Estrada of crimes he allegedly committed while he was the country's president.

This is not to say that the incumbent President is clean and perfect. Perhaps, she too has dirt on her hands and skeletons in her closet, but Bishop Tobias embarrassed the Catholic Church as a whole with his myopic and self-serving "judgment."

—DANIEL DALILIS JR.,
dbd9873@sbcglobal.net

Society's failure

AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT HAPPENED at the Cavite State University when a graduating student heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo. It was one more confirmation that our educational system is failing. It underscored the need to inculcate proper values in our children. The ultimate goal of education is to develop citizens with good manners. It also emphasized a failure of our society. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to educate a child."

A good Filipino value dictates that we treat our visitors with respect. Our grandparents and parents taught us this value. Ms Arroyo was not a politician when she went to the Cavite State University. She was an invited guest. It was unfortunate that a poor, misinformed, disrespectful soul treated her that way. And the heckler did it also without consideration and respect for the other graduates, their parents, relatives and friends.

The act was extreme rudeness personified. It was worse that the heckler graduated from a state university. Meaning, most of her tuition was subsidized by the people. The heckler might have had reasons to be angry at the President. But certainly they were not enough for her to disregard propriety and decorum.

The incident was a slap on the face of university officials. It was a slap on the face of the parents of all the graduating students. The irony was she went up the stage and extended her hand to Ms Arroyo. It was good that she had some sanity left. I pity her parents for bringing up an ill-mannered daughter.

—DR. ULYSSES BANIGA,
BANIGAU@aol.com

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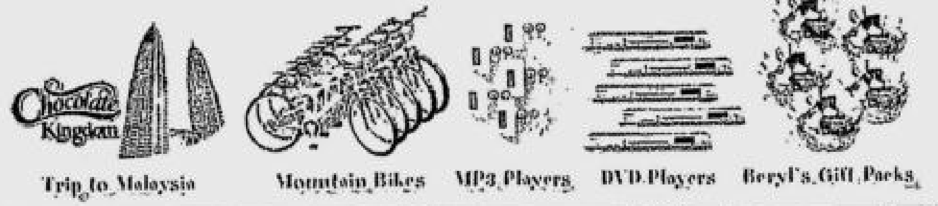

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'Balikbayan' brings books to the countryside

By Hazel P. Villa
Passi City, Iloilo

IN BOOKS, WE READ STORIES of courage and determination amidst life's "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," as the bard William Shakespeare would put it.

Ilonggo *balikbayan* Napoleon P. Paclibar Sr., 68, has been inspired by the stories he read about bravery and the intellectual overcoming of problems that he wants Filipinos to be equally inspired and find answers in their collective quest for progress.

So far, since 1997, more than 50 schools and institutions in Panay Island and other areas of the Philippines have been recipients of volumes of books, magazines and audio-visual materials from this native of Barangay Gines Viejo, Passi City, who has worked in the shipyards of the US Navy in the last 38 years.

By Paclibar's own estimate alone, the books and magazines of every conceivable title and subject matter that he has donated in the name of the Tomas and Victoria Paclibar Foundation, named after his parents, may amount to more than P58 million.

Some of the books he bought from publishers and bookstores while the others came from US libraries and private citizens. He would ride in his sedan or pick-up and, get the books from sources and ship them to the Philippines.

Donating books seems to be such an all-consuming passion for Paclibar that he goes home to Passi City at least six times a year from his home in San Francisco, California to deliver the books or receive certificates of appreciation from the many schools lucky enough to receive dictionaries, encyclopedias, or complete collections of National Geographic and other expensive magazines.

His philanthropy has earned him the monicker "Mr. Books" and he proudly introduces himself by that name when meeting people or answering the telephone.

He was also instrumental in putting up six reading centers in selected barangays of Passi City, Pototan and Dingle towns in Iloilo and has sent more than 10 scholars to college.

"Anyone can have the opportunity to put something in his or her head as long as there are books," said Paclibar, an alumnus of the Iloilo School of Arts and Trade (now known as Western Visayas College of Science and Technology), which is a recipient of most of his books.

The WVCST has a special place in the heart of Paclibar as it was instrumental in giving him the breaks that led to his philanthropy. In turn, his alma mater awarded him on Sept. 9, 2005 as one of its 100 Most Outstanding Tradeans of the Century in the field of Community and Philanthropic Service when the WVCST celebrated its centennial.

ILONGGO *balikbayan* Napoleon P. Paclibar Sr., 68, takes a breather at the president's office of the Western Visayas College of Science and Technology which is one of the recipients of books he has donated. HAZEL P. VILLA

Interesting life

Paclibar's life is as interesting as the contents of the fiction and autobiographical books that he donates and his early years as a farm boy, houseboy and stevedore formed the mindset that has made him a philanthropist of sorts.

Morning of June 4, 1956. 18-year-old Napoleon Paclibar had no breakfast as usual and was praying like he had never prayed before as he walked fast from the house towards the church, a mile away.

He was up against 5,300 applicants all over the Philippines and the US Civil Service Commission will take only 30 young men who will pass the four written exams, three interviews, and two physical exams to be privileged scholars of a US government-sponsored apprenticeship in various courses.

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Bantay Presyo ng Gobyerno

Joint government-business sector study shows very minimal impact of oil price increases in the prices of basic commodities. A P0.50 fuel price hike translates only to P0.01 to P0.06 in the prices of processed goods, and P0.01 to P0.04 per kg to agricultural products. The following should guide consumers:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DOE Hotlines:

Consumer Welfare & Promotions Office	840-2267
Retail Marketing Division	840-5669; 840-2130
Power Bureau	840-2173

Text: DOE<space>message, send to 2920 (Globe and Smart)
Website: www.doe.gov.ph

Retail Price Ranges of Petroleum Products in Metro Manila (in PhP/liter) (As of 24 April 2006)

Unleaded	37.15	-	38.53
Diesel	32.79	-	34.46
Diesel (PUJ Discount)	32.79	-	33.78
Kerosene	34.98	-	38.00
LPG (per 11 kgs tank)	384.50	-	487.00

LAND TRANSPORT FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD

LTFRB Hotline: 925-7191 Text or call: 0921-4487777
Website: www.dotc.gov.ph
Metro Manila Fare Rates (in Php) (Effective 09 May '05)

Public Utility Jeepney (PUJ)	
1st four kilometers	7.50
succeeding kilometer	1.25
Public Utility Buses (PUB, non-aircon)	
1st five kilometers	8.00
succeeding kilometer	1.75
Public Utility Buses (PUB, aircon)	
1st five kilometers	10.00
succeeding kilometer	1.75

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

For inquiries and complaints:
Call the DTI Consumer Assistance Hotline 751-3330
Text DTI<space>reklamo, send to 2920 (Globe and Smart)
To know the latest price of selected basic goods in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao:Text: DTI<space>Presyo, send to 2256 (Globe, Sun & Smart) Website: www.business.gov.ph

Comparative Retail Prices in Metro Manila Wetmarkets

COMMODITY	PREVAILING PRICES (In PhP) Current (24 April 2006)	LastMonth (20 March 2006)
CANNED FISH, 155 g		
5 5 5	10.00	10.00
Ligo	10.50	10.50
Master	10.50	10.50
PROCESSED AND CANNED MEAT		
Luncheon Meat		
Maling (397 g)	40.00	40.00
CDO, Chinese style, 165 g	22.00	22.00
Meat Loaf		
Philips (200 g)	20.00	20.00
Argentina (170 g)	15.00	15.00
Gusto (220 g)	18.00	18.00
Corned Beef		
Argentina (260 g)	37.00	37.00
Purefoods (150 g)	30.00	30.00
INSTANT NOODLES (Chicken Flavor)		
Lucky Me (55 g)	5.00	5.00
Maggi (55 g)	5.50	5.50
Payless (55 g)	5.00	5.00
PROCESSED MILK		
Condensed Filled		
Carnation (301 ml)	35.00	35.00
Evaporated Filled		
Angel (410 ml)	22.00	23.00
Carnation (378 ml)	27.00	27.00
Powdered Filled		
Alaska (80 g)	18.00	18.00
Bear Brand (180 g)	39.00	39.00
Bear Brand (80 g)	18.00	18.00
COFFEE REFILL (25 g)		
Blend 45	13.25	13.25
Nescafe	17.00	17.00
Great Taste- Premium Blend	15.00	15.00
CEMENT (Portland, 40-kg bag) (cash pick-up price)	164.00	164.00

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DA Hotline: **920-4073; 920-4072**
Text: DA<space>message, send to 2956 (Globe)
Website: www.da.gov.ph

Comparative Retail Prices in Metro Manila Wetmarkets

COMMODITY	SPECIFICATON	PREVAILING PRICES (InPhP per kilo) Current (27April2006)	Last Month (28 March '06)
RICE			
NFA	Well milled	18.00	18.00
Ordinary rice	Regular milled	22.00	22.00
Special coml. rice	Well milled	24.00	24.00
FISH	(Fresh and firm)		
Bangus	Med (3-4 pcs/kg)	80.00	75.00
Tilapia	Med (5-6 pcs/kg)	70.00	70.00
MEAT & POULTRY			
Pork liempo	Pork belly	140.00	140.00
Whole chicken	Fully dressed	100.00	100.00
Chicken egg	per piece	3.30	3.35
SUGAR			
Refined sugar		38.00	38.00
Brown sugar		32.00	32.00
Cooking Oil			
Lapad bottle	in 375 ml bottle	15.00	15.00

Apo Island evokes happy memories to former soldiers

By Alex Pal
Apo Island, Negros Oriental

LIKE MANY OF HIS MALE neighbors in this 74-hectare island off the coast of Dauin in Negros Oriental, Jimmy Tabanera leaves home every morning to fish. While Apo Island is surrounded by fish, there are several places where fishermen frequent because it guarantees them a good catch. One such place is what they call Cogon Point in the northern part of the island.

Jimmy caught only two jacks last Monday but he was ready to call it a day. The two jacks each weighed 9.9 kilos and 12 kilos. The smaller one immediately sold for P1,300 to local tourists.

It wasn't always this good. The islanders still remembered the time the fishermen of Apo had to paddle far from shore just to find food for their families.

"We had our share of illegal fishers—from *muro ami* to dynamite fishing to cyanide poisoning," recounted Jimmy's younger brother Julito, 42.

Marine sanctuary

Julito was a young man barely out of his teens in 1984 when he saw the pioneering attempts of Dr. Angel Alcala of Silliman University to convince the people of Apo Island to establish a marine sanctuary to allow the fish to breed and grow big enough before they are caught.

These efforts initially met resistance, not so much from the operators of the illegal fishing trade, but from the islanders themselves. It required a lot of social preparation and community organization. The conservation efforts received a big boost when then Lt. Col. Cesar Garcia, Jr., the provincial commander of the Philippine Constabulary in Negros Oriental, put up a police detachment in the island to enforce the laws against illegal fishing.

Garcia, whose tour of duty ended in 1986, was replaced by then Lt. Col. Tiburcio Fusilero, who continued the environmental program of his predecessor. So with other officers who followed, like then Lt. Col. Ricardo de Leon. Aside from their concern for the environment, another thing they had in common was their love for scuba diving.

A policeman who was sent to be a member of the Apo Island detachment later married a woman from the island, giving the island its first full-time policeman.

Environmental programs

The island was later declared a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System law and is currently being managed by a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). The PAMB meets regularly to formulate policies governing the development of the island, as well as seeing to it that all activities done are environmentally sound and that the fishing grounds would be preserved.

Environmental education was also integrated into the elementary school curriculum, where the children are taught the importance of corals, mangroves and the ecosystem.

Apo Island has since attracted thousands of tourists and scientists who never cease to admire the relatively unspoiled reef and diverse marine life at the island's marine sanctuary, the first successful example of a community-managed coral reef.

The island's marine sanctuary was recently replicated and made a permanent exhibit at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, where visitors are not only given a view of the island and the reef but are welcomed "to the Philippines."

Welcomed sons

Long after their stints as provincial commanders of Negros Oriental had ended, Garcia, De Leon and Fusilero, would occasionally take time out from their assignments to make sentimental visits to the island, where they were always welcomed like long-lost sons.

Garcia joined the Army when the Constabulary was dissolved in 1992, retiring as a Brigadier General. He is currently the Director General of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency. De Leon went up the hierarchy and retired as Deputy Director of the Philippine National Police while Fusilero capped his colorful stint as a police officer by retiring with the rank of Chief Superintendent. He now manages a watershed reforestation project in the mountains of Cebu.

Holy Week was one such occasion for Garcia, who came with his family and friends, and Fusilero.

Lush mangrove forest

"Much has happened since we were here three years ago," Fusilero said, noting the lush mangrove forest near the marine reserve. The trees planted in the hills almost 20 years ago were also getting bigger and were very visible from the shore.

"Looking at all these brings back happy memories," Garcia said as he gazed at the greenery before him.

"It gives us a deep sense of pride to come here and see the gains the people of Apo Island have made. Other places are now copying the Apo example," the smiling Fusilero said.

But perhaps, the sentiments of the islanders were conveyed by Julito, when he told his visitors: "We remember you guys because you helped our island a lot. I'm thankful that everyone cooperated to make our dream come true."

'Balikbayan' brings . . .

From page A16

The first honor graduate of Passi Central School had tried his luck in Manila after finishing high school with a Technical Curriculum Course in Woodworking at the Iloilo School of Arts and Trade.

After a year, he has had enough of the travails of an unpaid houseboy and lowly paid stevedore at the US Naval Base in Subic Bay that tears streamed down his face as he begged God to give him a chance at the US Civil Service Exam.

The eldest of 10 children of Tomas and Victoria Paclibar never tires of telling listeners how, in a span of three months, he went back and forth to the examination room until he became the only applicant from Eastern and Western Visayas, and one of the luckiest 30 (and one of three high school graduates up against professionals) to receive the boilermaking scholarship which is equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

The scholarship paved the way for him to become an apprentice boilermaker at the US Naval Base in Subic Bay all the way to various positions that led him to the United States until he retired in 1995 as Quality Assurance Specialist (Inspector/Surveyor) for Shipbuilding, Department of Defense, US Navy.

Paclibar now leads a comfortable life, confident that his nine children (one son died of cancer in Feb. 16, 2002) with wife Clemencia Delantar-Paclibar are stable with their own jobs and families.

"I could travel around the world and live a very relaxed life but I choose to come back to the Philippines and make sure that young children get a good education," said Paclibar, who learned to count and recite the alphabet under the shade of the santol tree in the early 1940s.

Inspiration

His difficult life as a young student serves as his inspiration in encouraging young people to read often and study well.

"All I had were banana leaves for paper and sharpened bamboo sticks as pencil," said Paclibar, who, as a child during World War II, saw first hand the generosity of his mother, which he says he would never forget.

"There was so much starvation during the Japanese occupation. People were dying from eating ill-prepared *kayos* (root crop which is poisonous unless cooked well). We had rice just enough for us, but one woman begged my mother for some food and she gave half of our rice to her," said Paclibar in rough Kinaray-a, the dialect of Passi City.

Sending books from the US to be distributed in far-flung schools, where students have yet to see colorful pictures on glossy paper, remains Paclibar's priority.

The "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" may already be behind him but Paclibar says many young Filipinos may do well not to go through Shakespeare's description of life by learning to appreciate books.

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Claro M. Recto Avenue Metro Manila Philippines

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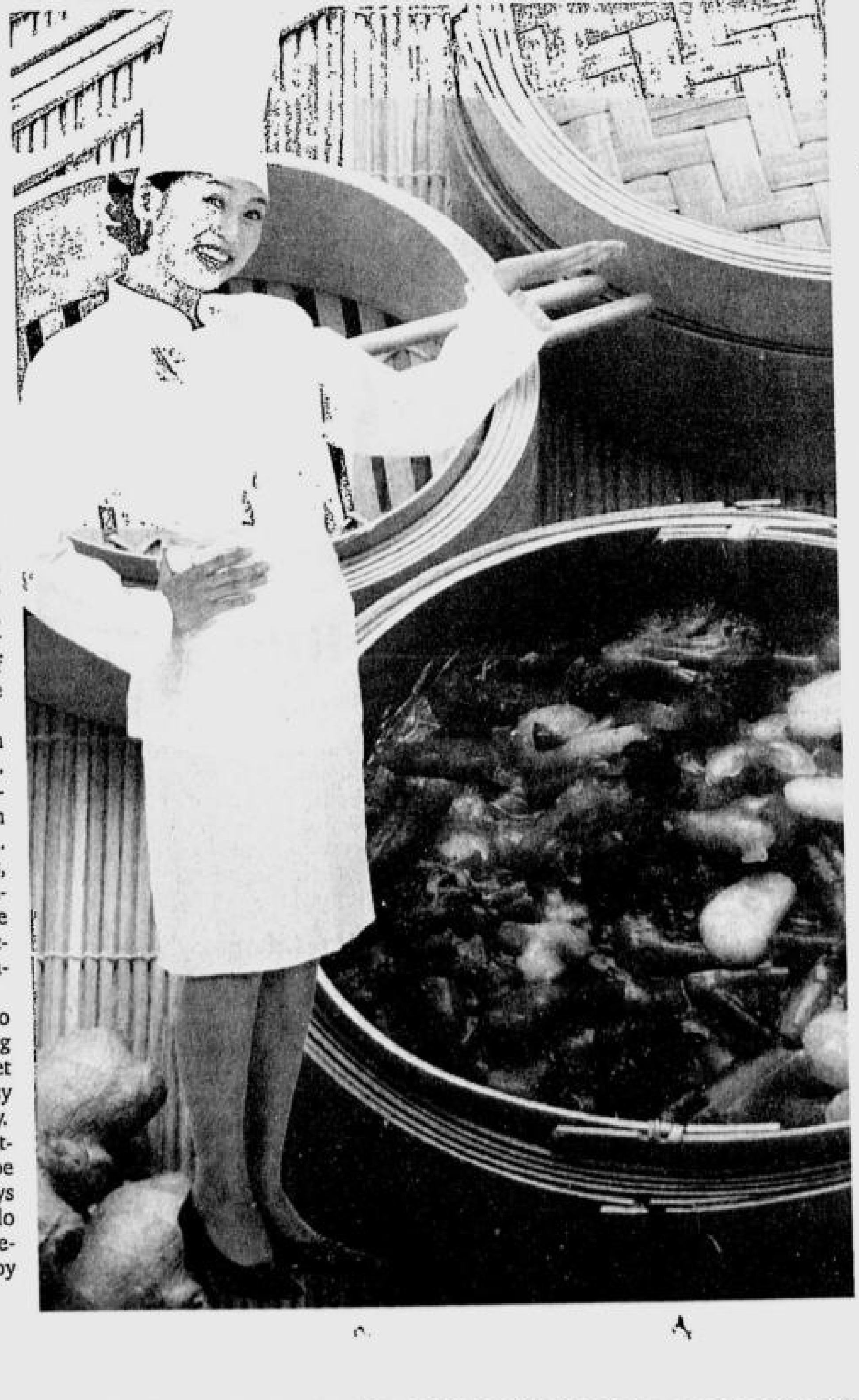
HEALTHY HEART COOKFEST



GENERAL CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. Eligible Contestants
The Contest is open to all working mothers aged 25-60 years old. Members of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) Board and Cookfest Committee are not eligible to join the Contest.
2. Categories
Participants should submit preferably a one-dish meal (viand) or a main dish and a vegetable dish for a family of 6 within a working budget of P250.
3. Materials/Ingredients
Healthy Heart recipes should use fresh ingredients not processed and not prepared seasonings or mixes.
4. Recipe Write-up
a) Should be brief but concise, describing the dishes and the cooking methods used; listing all ingredients according to order of use expressed in household measure, and indicating specifications (e.g. type, kind, variety, cut, market form, can size). Steps should be in paragraph form, according to sequence. Procedure should be simple, indicating exact cooking temperature and time.
b) Recipe should include the approximate size (number of servings) and total.
5. Deadline for the Submission of Entry Forms is on or before May 5, 2006. The official entry/registration forms/recipe entries and other requirements (contestants' information) may be mailed, personally delivered, or faxed to:
MA. TERESA B. ABOLA, MD
Chairman, Cookfest Committee
Philippine Heart Association (Heart House)
Suite 502 President Tower Building, 81 Timog Ave., cor. Scout Ybardolaza St., Quezon City
Tel. No.: 929-1161; Fax No.: 929-1165
Pre-Contest orientation is on May 19, 2006 wherein 20 semi-finalists will be chosen.
6. Judges are composed of individuals from professional organizations, food industry, government and non-government institutions, media and culinary arts/food experts and selected child judges. Semi-finalists will bring their cooked dishes for actual taste-testing by the judges.
7. Judging will be on May 23, 2006, the day of the contest, all cooked dishes for 6 persons will be presented to the judges and viewers at the kitchen studio. The 20 semi-finalists have one hour (7a.m. to 8a.m.) to set up and present their recipes. The top 3 winners have to whip up their menus on-site under time pressure (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
Criteria:
30% Over-all acceptability/ palatability (color/ appearance, flavor, texture or consistency, general appeal, and acceptability)
30% Ingredients/foods represent groups in the Filipino Food Pyramid Guide
10% Originality (creativity/ uniqueness of recipe)
10% Cost/economy, availability of added ingredients, ease of preparation
10% Time management
10% Presentation
8. Prizes
All participants will be given certificates of participation/ recognition and the winners for each category shall receive plaques and the following cash prizes: First prize P30,000; Second prize P20,000; Third prize P10,000

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Atis driven out in boom in Boracay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE ATI COMMUNITY ON BORACAY Island is being driven out of their village by landowners despite an injunction prohibiting their eviction.

Sr. Victoria Ostan, of the Holy Rosary Parish Ati Mission (HRPAM), said the Ati families are still in danger of losing their homes despite the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples' (NCIP) order barring their eviction from their village.

In a decision released Friday, the NCIP regional hearing office for Western and Central Visayas issued a permanent injunction against holders of tax declarations claiming ownership of the lands the Atis occupy.

In his order, NCIP hearing officer Sulpicio Gamosa Jr. said the Atis "cannot be summarily relocated without their free, prior and informed consent, at least until their petitions for CADT (certificate of ancestral domain title) are still pending with the NCIP."

Gamosa cited historical and anthropological data that showed that the Atis now living in Sitio Bolabog in Barangay Balabag are direct descendants of the Atis who first inhabited the island.

The Atis have a pending application for the issuance of a CADT claiming they are the first inhabitants of the 1,032-hectare island-resort. The application, filed on Feb. 23, 2000, has not been resolved by the commission until now.

But Ostan said the community is still being threatened with eviction from the one-hectare land they are occupying at the northern end of the island.

The Ati village sits on adjacent properties of Aniceto Yap, brother of provincial board member Jose Yap, and the family of Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores.

During her visit to the island on April 15 last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo told Ati leaders that their community would be relocated to a one-hectare property within the 80-hectare Eco-Tourism Village on the island.

The P50-million relocation site will be donated by the Taytay sa Kauswagan Inc. (TKI) and the Boracay Property Holdings Inc.

But until now, the planned relocation site and the transfer of the Atis have not been implemented.

Instead, Ostan said, a concrete fence erected early this year has cut off the passageway of the Atis to their houses. A storage building for jet-ski gears is also being constructed in the village.

The construction is being undertaken allegedly by the Seraph Hotel on the property of the Miraflores family.

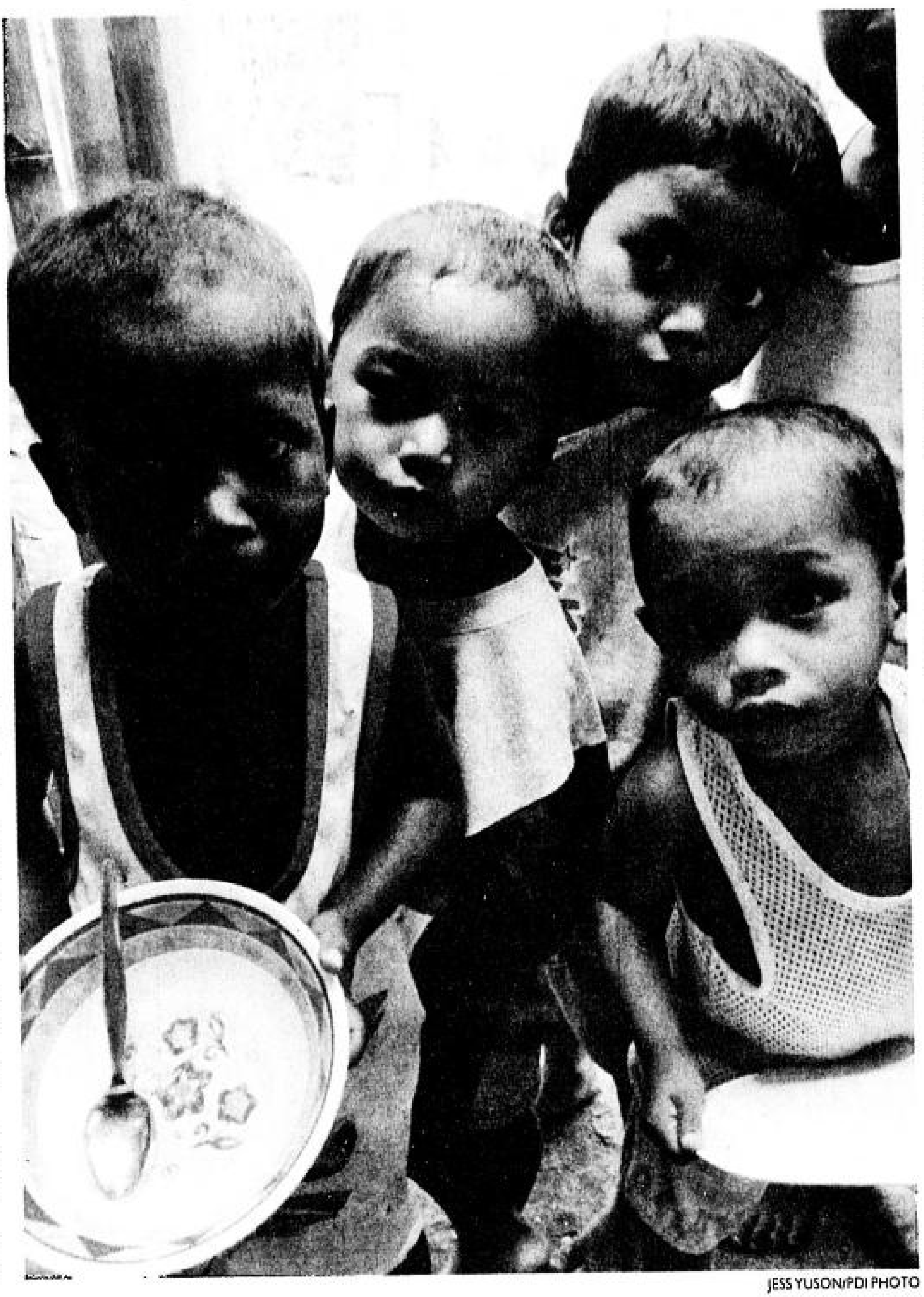
Ostan said the Atis are complaining that they have no path to pass through to get to their homes.

"They feel that they are slowly being strangled and pushed out of their village. They are frustrated that despite various promises, they are still being driven out and with nowhere to go," Ostan told the INQUIRER in an interview.

A member of the community, Gloria Domingo, already left the island on Feb. 26 after being paid P6,000.

"The Atis are being convinced one by one to leave the village while the structures are being erected," said Ostan.

She said they have urged the Atis to remain calm because they have resorted to heavy drinking in frustration.


JESS YUSON/PDI PHOTO
ATI CHILDREN hold empty plates and face an uncertain future as the resort boom in Boracay threatens to displace them from the island that their ancestors first inhabited.

ROUNDUP

Dengue kills girl

COTABATO CITY—A 9-year-old girl died while seven others from Parang, Maguindanao were brought to the hospital when they were stricken by dengue. Marites Fernandez, chair of Making Village, said they could have prevented the spread of the disease if fogging machines were readily made available. The dengue-afflicted patients, most of them children of poor families, were confined at the Notre Dame Hospital here. City health officer Dr. Abdullah Dumama allowed the use of their fogging machine after learning that dengue-carrying mosquitoes were prevalent in Parang town. Fernandez started soliciting cash to be used to defray the patients' hospital and medicinal expenses.
Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Literacy rate up

KORONADAL, South Cotabato—The simple literacy rate in South Cotabato went up by 6.24 percent to 96.45 percent in 2005 compared to 2004, Carmelita Cabarubias, alternative learning supervisor of the Department of Education here said. Cabarubias attributed the increase to the continued support of local governments and the private sector in the DepEd's effort to increase access to education. The DepEd in the province has embarked on a literacy program targeting out-of-school individuals.
Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bill on kids' welfare

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A social welfare official here welcomed the recent passage by Congress of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Bill. City social welfare and development officer Rebecca Magante said she hoped President Macapagal-Arroyo signs the bill into a law soon. She said this would result in the scrapping of about 70 percent of charges filed against children in conflict with the law. Under the bill, children facing criminal cases would be referred to charitable institutions or the social welfare office for rehabilitation, instead of being jailed.
Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

UP class '66 reunion

MEMBERS of the University of the Philippines Class of 1966 will hold a reunion today at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños. The reunion, which starts at 8 a.m., will include morning merienda at Anest Tower, which is just before the UPLB gate, and visits to the Institute of Biotechnology for a demonstration of how virgin coconut oil is produced; the Dairy Training and Research Institute for a demonstration on how milk, cheese and butter are processed; and the UPLB Flower and Garden Show. Members of the class who wish to join the reunion can sign up with Andrew Nocon (tel. 0918-9301529) or Dr. Lydia Rodriguez Arcellana (tel. 9298226, 9318894 or 09209149374).

LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO
SEA SHOW
Spectators stand in sea water as they watch a reenactment of the victory of Lapu Lapu over Spanish colonizers led by Ferdinand Magellan. It was held at the Mactan Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.

Surigao judge sends 3 kidnappers to death row

TANDAG, SURIGAO DEL SUR—Days after President Macapagal-Arroyo commuted the death sentences of at least 1,000 inmates, a judge here sent at least three people to the death row.

Cantilan Regional Trial Court Judge Romeo Buenaflor found cousins Jovel Apole, Rolando Apole and Renato Apole guilty "beyond reasonable doubt" of the crimes of kidnapping and robbery with violence on Wednesday.

The three convicts were among the 10 people charged with the 2003 abduction of Japanese national Yasumitsu Hashiba.

Their seven co-accused had been cleared for lack of witnesses.

Based on court records, Hashiba, who is married to a local, was kidnapped in the evening of Jan. 23, 2003 in Barangay Bunga, Lanuza.

The kidnappers, armed with pistols and a hand grenade, entered the Hashiba residence and forced the Japanese into a waiting vehicle.

The kidnappers also fled with the victim's cash and jewelry worth P150,000.

They later got in touch with the victim's family and demanded P3 million in ransom.

The victim's wife, Emelie, instead filed charges against her husband's abductors, which forced them to free Hashiba.

Police arrested 10 suspects in the process and pursued the kidnapping charges against them.

Buenaflor, known as the hanging judge of Surigao del Sur, also ordered the Apoleses to pay Hashiba P75,000 in moral and exemplary damages.

The INQUIRER learned that the decision will be forwarded to the Court of Appeals in Cagayan de Oro City, "for automatic review within 20 days but not earlier than 15 days after the promulgation of judgment."

The Catholic Church hierarchy has been pushing for the scrapping of the death penalty arguing that only God has the right to take a life.

Ms Arroyo herself has supported a review of the death penalty law.

Administration congressmen said they would work for the scrapping of the capital punishment although victims of heinous crimes and their families want the penalty retained. *Bert Pacate, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gov tags testimony on mercury as unethical

By Bobby Labalan
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY—GOV. RAUL Lee described as unethical the testimony of Nelia Cortez-Maramba, professor emeritus of the University of the Philippines-Manila's (UP-Manila) Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, declaring that residents of five villages in Sorsogon had heavy metals in their bodies.

Lee said it was rude for the UP professor to render a testimony before the independent commission chaired by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes which has been investigating the effects of Lafayette's mining operations.

"The UP study group had not yet submitted a report on the result of the study to the provincial government which commissioned them," said Lee.

High chemical content

Maramba was quoted as telling the Bastes commission that the result of their study revealed "high chemical content in the participants' bodies and food sources. These chemicals are harmful, especially lead, which may affect a person's IQ baseline."

The UP team was commissioned by the provincial government of Sorsogon to look into the health status of residents of coastal villages facing Pacific Ocean after mercury was detected in fish and sea water samples last year.

Lee said the UP group should have furnished them a copy of the report or at least informed them first of the result before making its release public.

Another UP team, the UP-Natural Science Research Institute, was also commissioned by the provincial government but whose study result now seemed to be in conflict with the Maramba report.

Independent commission

Earlier, the governor called on the independent commission to spare the fishermen of Sorsogon from any harm which may adversely affect their livelihood if unverified reports are carelessly released to the public again.

Lee was invited by the commission to the hearing but begged off due to a conflict in schedule.

In a letter addressed to commission chair Bishop Bastes, the governor said the fish scare generated by the reports about mercury contamination was already gone and things had returned to normal.

Anti-Lafayette

Lee said any effort by anti-Lafayette critics to close down the mining operation must not be done at the expense of the fishermen and residents of Sorsogon.

More than 5,000 fishermen and hundreds of families depending on beach resort operations lost their livelihood due to the mercury scare.

A repeat of that situation would be catastrophic, Lee stressed.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
E-LEARNING
Students of the Bernardo Lirio High School in San Pedro, Batangas and the Sta. Anastacia-San Rafael National High School were the beneficiaries recently of the Genyo E-Learning Management Program donated by the Bato Balani Foundation Inc. (BBFI). The donors and recipients posed for a photo. From left are Susan Castillo, Bernardo Lirio High School official; Jose Ma. Policarpio, Diwa Learning Systems vice president and other officials.

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, INC.
PHILIPPINE UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Joint Midyear Convention
May 5-6,2006
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, Lahug, Cebu City

Providing Quality Peri-Operative Health Care Through Continuing Medical Education

MESSAGES

In behalf of our respective governing bodies, it gives us great pleasure to welcome the Fellows, Delegates, Guests, Families and Friends to the enchanting and captivating City of Cebu to celebrate the first-ever Joint Midyear Convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. (PSA) and the Philippine Urological Association (PUA).

This momentous event is an affirmation that our seemingly diverse, yet intimately associated organizations can focus on commonalities and bond together to address common concerns to benefit the surgical patient. Our convention, appropriately titled "Multidisciplinary Approach to Peri-Operative Care", reels off on May 5-6, 2006 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino. We will deal with matters of mutual interest like standardization of fluid management, resolving issues concerning blood transfusions and pain control, and sharing expertise in ethics and judicial matters. The exchange of ideas and information will be a most fulfilling experience for the delegates.

We also would like to acknowledge the participation of the newest affiliate societies of the PCS and the Philippine Association of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgeons (the new name of the consolidated PAES and PSLS) - and the Philippine Association of Training Officers in Surgery (PATOS). The Philippine Society of General Surgeons (PSGS) will conduct a half-day postgraduate course as well.

We congratulate the Midyear Convention Committee, the PCS Cebu Eastern Visayas Chapter, the PSA Cebu Central Visayas Chapter and their counterparts in the PUA, for arranging a golf tournament, an entertaining Fellowship Night and lots of free time after the sessions to balance out the academic side of the convention. These will provide an excellent opportunity to unwind, affirm and strengthen family and friendship bonds that have been stretched by the unrelenting demands of the practice of surgery & anesthesia.

We thank our benefactors, partners and friends in the pharmaceutical industry for being a part of this convention. Let us all enjoy the hospitality of this beautiful jewel of the Visayan Islands.

EDUARDO R. GATCHALIAN, MD, FPUA, FPCS
President, PCS

ROMULO A. BUZON JR., MD, DPBA
President, PSA

MICHAEL Y. LEH, MD, FPUA, FPCS
President, PUA

Our Dear Colleagues,

Mabuhay! We would like to welcome all our Fellows and guests to this first ever Joint Midyear Convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists Inc. (PSA), and the Philippine Urological Association (PUA) to be held from May 5-6, 2006 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino, Cebu City. Our societies have agreed to come together to discuss common issues affecting us, as well as to foster a closer and more harmonious relationship among our Fellows. Our convention's theme of "Multidisciplinary Approach to Peri-operative Care" is indeed very timely, and we are very sure that our Fellows will be learning not only new updates and advances related to our own disciplines but also how to work together as a team for better health care delivery for our patients.

We are indeed looking forward to your utmost participation and we are very sure that we will all enjoy the hospitality and wonders of Cebu City. Our Committee on Conventions has likewise prepared a variety of social and recreational activities which our families will surely enjoy.

See you all in Cebu City!

REY MELCHOR F. SANTOS, MD, FSGS, FPCS
Overall Convention Chairman, PCS

THERESA M. ALCANTARA, MD, DPBA
Overall Convention Chair, PSA

ARIEL A. ZERRUDO, MD, FPUA, FPCS
Overall Convention Chairman, PUA

Our whole hearted congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Surgeons, Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists and Philippine Urological Association for the initiation of this first Joint Midyear Convention on May 5 & 6, 2006 at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City.

In our little way, from PSA Cebu- Central Visayas Chapter and PCS Cebu Eastern Visayas Chapter, we welcome all the Delegates and Guests from the three Specialty societies. We will show everybody the Unity of Filipino specialist doctors who are willing to serve our fellow countrymen with utmost excellence in Peri-operative Care.

Mabuhay kayo, Filipino doctors na tapat na naglilingkod para sa bayan.

Manuel B. Villamor Jr., M.D., FPSGS, F.P.C.S.
President
PCS-CEVC

Cesar William T. Ortiz, Jr., MD, DPBA
President
PSA Cebu-Central Visayas Chapter

GREETINGS!

In behalf of the Philippine College of Surgeons and The Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists, Cebu - Eastern Visayas Chapter, we would like to extend our heartfelt felicitations and warmest reception to all delegates and guests of this first joint midyear convention of the PCS, PSA and PUA.

As co-hosts of this grand event, we hope that you will all have a very fruitful and enjoyable stay in Cebu City. With this year's theme: "Multidisciplinary Approach to Peri-operative Care", we assure everyone that we have made all the necessary preparations in order to make this joint midyear convention successful. We know that it is through conventions such as this that we will be able to show our unity in our quest for excellence in the quality of our service.

In the true spirit of the Sugbuanon we bid you all: "MAINITONG PAG-ABOT, UG MABUHI KITANG TANAN!"

ELMER S. JABAGAT, M.D., FPSGS, FPCS
Vice President
PCS Cebu -Eastern Visayas Chapter

CLIVE ROLAND Y. FERMIN, M.D., DPBA
Vice President
PSA Cebu Central Visayas Chapter

In what is described as a historic first, the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists (PSA) and the Philippine Urological Association (PUA), will jointly celebrate their Midyear Conventions in the "gateway to a thousand journeys", Cebu City. These three organizations agreed to bond together to address common concerns to benefit the surgical patient. The convention, appropriately titled " Multidisciplinary Approach to Peri- Operative Care", is on May 5 & 6, 2006 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino. Also actively participating in this convention are the Philippine Association of Training Officers in Surgery (PATOS), the Philippine Association of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgeons (PALES) and the Philippine Society of General Surgeons (PSGS).

PCS Board of Regents

Seated from L-R: Doctors Josefina R. Almonte, Regent; Alex A. Erasmo, Secretary; Rey Melchor F. Santos, Vice President; Eduardo R. Gatchalian, President; Stephen Sixto Siguan, Treasurer; Ray B. Malilay and Maximo H. Simbulan Jr., Regents.

Standing from L-R: Doctors Florencio Q. Lucero Jr., Jesus V. Valencia, Dominador M. Chiong Jr., Alfred H. Belmonte, Esperanza R. Lahoz, Antonio S. Say, Alejandro R. Garcia, and Isaac David E. Ampil II, Regents.

PCS Board of Governors

Seated from L-R: Doctors Edgar A. Baltazar, Governor; Vedasto B. Lim, Vice-Chairman; Enrico P. Ragaza, Chairman; Maribel O. Du, Secretary; and Hector M. Santos Jr., Governor.

Standing from L-R: Doctors Beda R. Espineda, Renato Cirilo A. Ocampo, Rafael L. Jocson, Rhoderick M. Casis, and Rolando L. Canivel, Governors.

Not in picture: Doctors Natividad A. Almazan-Aguilar, Eduardo R. Bautista, Cecilio Vicente T. Gempesaw, Alfredo M. Igama, Michael Y. Leh, Rex A. Madrigal, Michael E. Martinez, Edward A. Sarrosa, Jackson D. Soriano, Dures Fe D.E. Tagayuna, Ronald A. Yutangco, Governors.

The Organizing Committee working with their local counterparts designed a continuing medical education program that will deal with matters of mutual interest to the three specialty societies. The juxtaposition of the postures and viewpoints of the different disciplines on a given topic will certainly make for very interesting and informative sessions. The delegates will be treated to a healthy exchange of ideas, happy resolutions and consensus of opinions on Fluid Management, Blood Transfusion, Pain Control and Ethics and Judicial Matters. The sharing of knowledge and technology will contribute to the improvement in the delivery of quality surgical and anesthesia care. Moreover, the Social and Tourism Calendar, the Golf Tournament and the Fellowship Night are expected to renew the ties and rekindle the spirit of camaraderie and concern for members that will fortify the teamwork between surgeons and anesthesiologists.

Board of Directors, PSA

Seated from L-R: Doctors Ma. Zenaida M. Mariano ,Treasurer ; Theresa M. Alcantara, Vice President; Romulo A. Buzon Jr. ,President; Dulce A. La'O , Secretary; and Eric V. Nagtalon , Immediate Past President.

Standing from L-R: Doctors Ma. Lilybeth R. Tanchoco, Roland S. Capito and Mary Ann R. Marcelo , Directors; Antonita M. De Pano , Regional Director for Luzon; Francis Jayson L. Villegas, Regional Director for Visayas; Florian R. Nuevo, Edwin John A. Cruz, and Joy Luat-Inciong, Directors; and John F. Gomez , Regional Director for Mindanao.

PUA Executive Council

Seated from L-R: Doctors David T. Bolong, Auditor; Raul Winston P. Andutan, Member; Michael Y. Leh, President; and Ariel A. Zerrudo, Secretary.

Standing from L-R: Doctors Telesforo E. Gana Jr, Member; Dennis P. Serrano, Treasurer; Jesus Benjamin L. Mendoza, Adviser; and Juliano Z.K. Panganiban, Vice President.

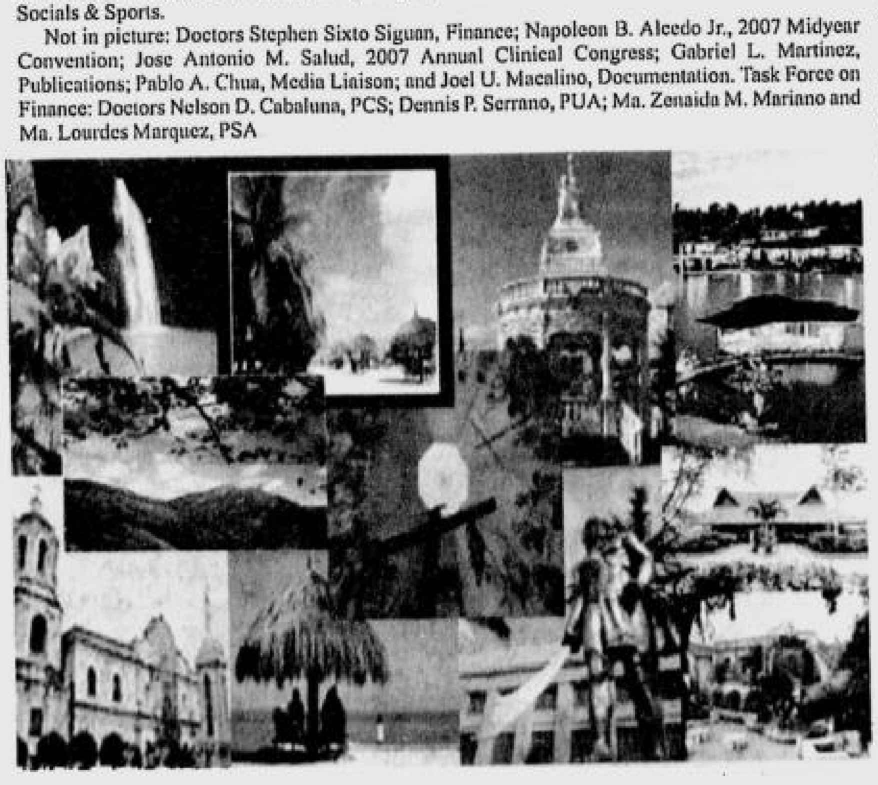
This year marks the first joint venture between the PCS, PSA & PUA for a tri-specialty midyear convention in Cebu. A long time in coming, it is still a most opportune and worthy enterprise to embark on. This undertaking is like a good book, once a page is turned, it cannot be closed.

Committee on Conventions

Seated from L-R: Doctors Rey Melchor F. Santos, Chairman; Juliano ZK Panganiban, Vice President, PUA; Eduardo R. Gatchalian, President, PCS; Romulo L. Buzon Jr., President, PSA; and Alex A. Erasmo, Secretary, PCS.

Standing from L-R: Doctors Jose Macario V. Faylona, Annual Clinical Congress; Armando C. Crisostomo, CSE; Mr. Alvin G. Jalimao, Unilab; Nadia Trinchera, Rajah Tours; Manuel A. Oliveros Jr., Midyear Convention; Larry Reyes, PRMD Director, Unilab; and George KCT Cheu, Socials & Sports.

Not in picture: Doctors Stephen Sixto Siguan, Finance; Napoleon B. Alcedo Jr., 2007 Midyear Convention; Jose Antonio M. Salud, 2007 Annual Clinical Congress; Gabriel L. Martinez, Publications; Pablo A. Chua, Media Liaison; and Joel U. Macalino, Documentation. Task Force on Finance: Doctors Nelson D. Cabaluna, PCS; Dennis P. Serrano, PUA; Ma. Zenaida M. Mariano and Ma. Lourdes Marquez, PSA



TRAVELOGUE ADTO TA SA CEBU, BAI

CEBU…the oldest city of the Philippines, the birthplace of Christianity in the Far East and the Queen City of the South, beckons! It was called "Sugbu", a Visayan word meaning to "walk on water," - what people had to do when they arrived in this pre-Hispanic colonial trading center. In 1521, Ferdinand Magellan brought to Cebu the Señor Santo Niño as a gift to then Queen Juana, the wife of Rajah Humabon, King of Cebu. The image was found miraculously intact and undamaged among the ruins in 1565 by a second Spanish expedition led by Miguel Lopez de Legaspi. The Señor Santo Niño, the Patron Saint of Cebu and of the Philippines is now housed in the Basilica Minore del Santo Nino. Since 1980, every third Sunday of January, the yearly Sinulog festival and pilgrimage is held in its honor. Legaspi constructed Fort San Pedro, which now serves as a museum, park for leisure and tourist destination. Magellan's Cross is located near the Basilica del Santo Nino. Colon St., the oldest street in Cebu, became a business district during the Spanish Colonial era and even after the second world war. Modern Cebu has practically shed off its image as a mere Spanish Trading outpost into a bustling lively industrial metropolis. This City prides itself with its delicious giant mangoes of Guadalupe, danggit, bulad, lechon, otap and rosquillos of Liloan, bibingka and bodbod of Mandaue City, world class guitars and sutukil (sugba, tinowa and kilaw) of Lapulapu City. Aside from the Waterfront Hotel and Casino, the convention site, other hotels like the Marriott Hotel, Shangri-la Mactan, Plantation Bay Resort and the newly opened Park Lane International Hotel and Marco Polo Plaza Hotel serve as alternative sites for the delegates to stay. Malls have sprouted like the proverbial mushroom. The new places to go for some nightlife are the Crossroads and Banilad Town Square. CEBU … the bustling Metropolis couched in a rustic provincial ambience, rich in heritage and culture yet dynamic and progressive is the "gateway to a thousand destinations". Adto ta sa Cebu, Bai!

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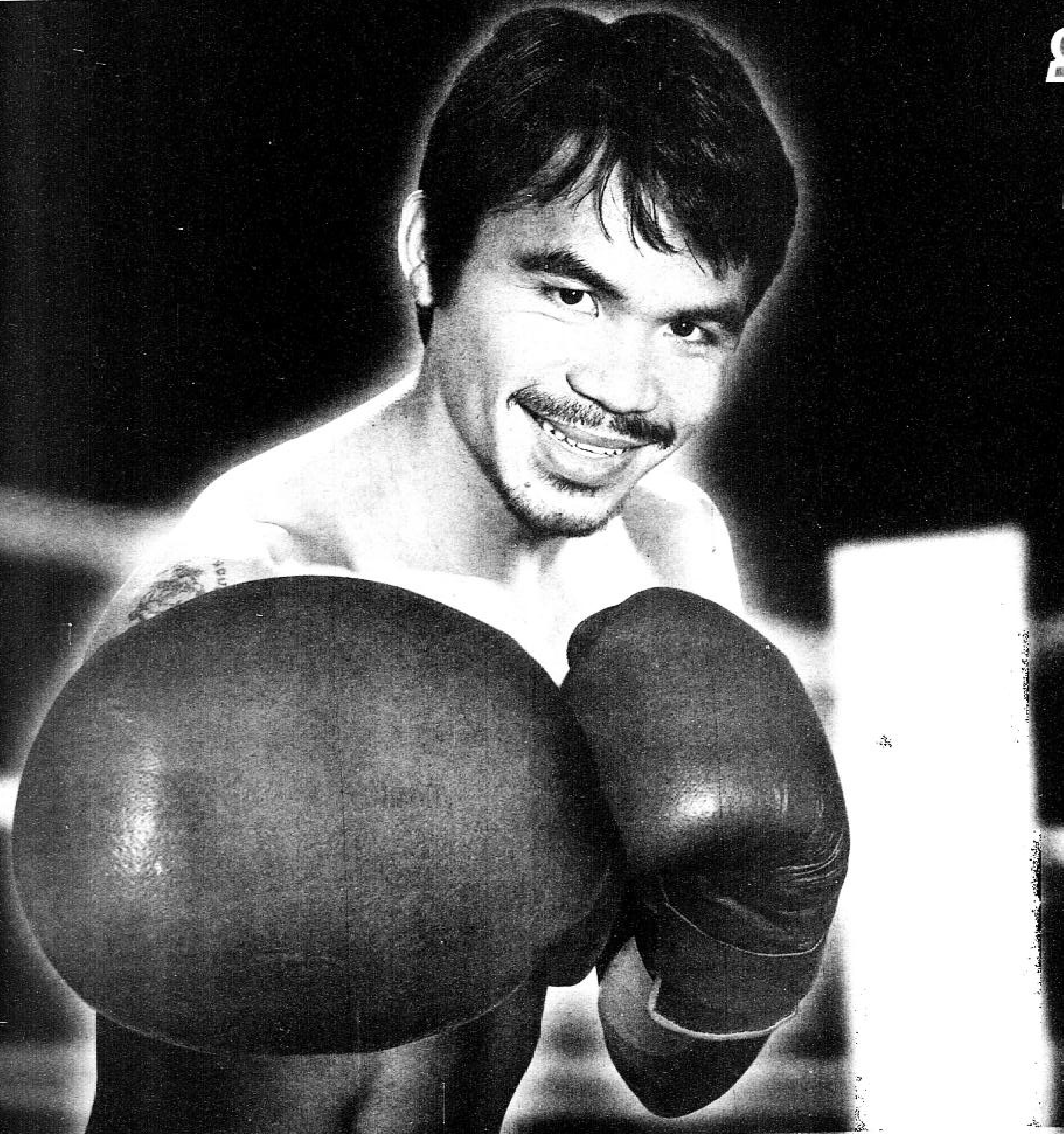

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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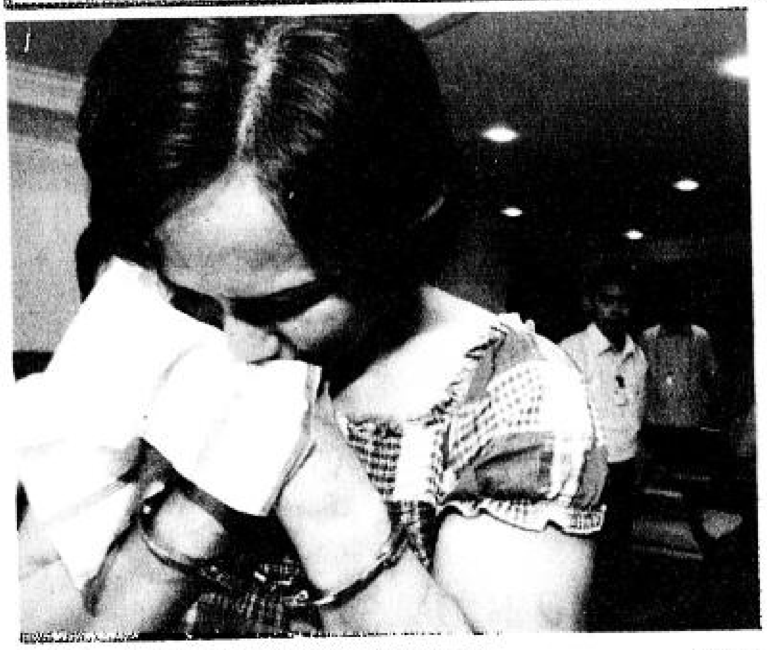


MORE woes for suspect Lourdes de Guzman. RYAN LIM

Taxmen run after 'Pajero Lady'

Liabilities totalled P6.4-M for 2 years

By Cynthia D. Balana and Michelle V. Remo

IT'S NOW THE TAXMEN'S TURN to run after the "Pajero lady."

Ma. Lourdes Ramos de Guzman, who earned the tag for using the vehicle in her illegal activities, was charged by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Department of Finance yesterday for failing to pay P1.9 million in 2003 and P4.4 million in 2004, for a total tax liability of P6.48 million.

The tax evasion charges against De Guzman, who was also known as Malou de Guzman, Josephine Garcia and Mary Josephine Garcia were filed in the Department of Justice.

De luxe vehicles

Based on information provided by the police to the BIR, De Guzman was allegedly involved in illegal activities with the "Akyat Bahay," "Salisi" and "Budol-budol" gangs.

The money she had acquired from her illegal activities was reportedly used to acquire, among others, several expensive vehicles, including a Ford Escape, a white Pajero, a white mini-Pajero, a red Ford F-150 truck, a black Jaguar, a gray Mitsubishi Space Gear, a green Suzuki Vitara, a blue Lancer, a black Honda Accord, a black Mitsubishi Outlander, a white BMW, a green Honda Civic, a silver Honda Jazz, a green Starex, a red Mitsubishi Lancer, a pink Toyota Altis and a Mercedes Benz.

Obligation

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said that even if De Guzman had obtained her income and vast acquisitions from illegal means, she was still obliged to declare her income and pay taxes.

De Guzman had no other legal means to support such acquisitions, the BIR said.

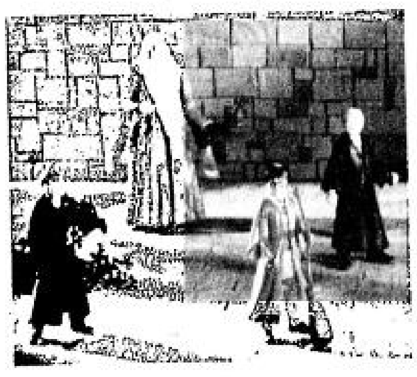
The suspect bought expensive vehicles in her name or other known aliases although she did not file any tax return until 2005, the agency added.

Other charges

De Guzman had also been charged with robbery, estafa, theft, murder and physical injuries.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Woman shot dead in teen gang riot /A22



- Fake Harry Potter toys seized in Tondo /A22
- ABB hitman found guilty of killing Manila councilor's son /A22

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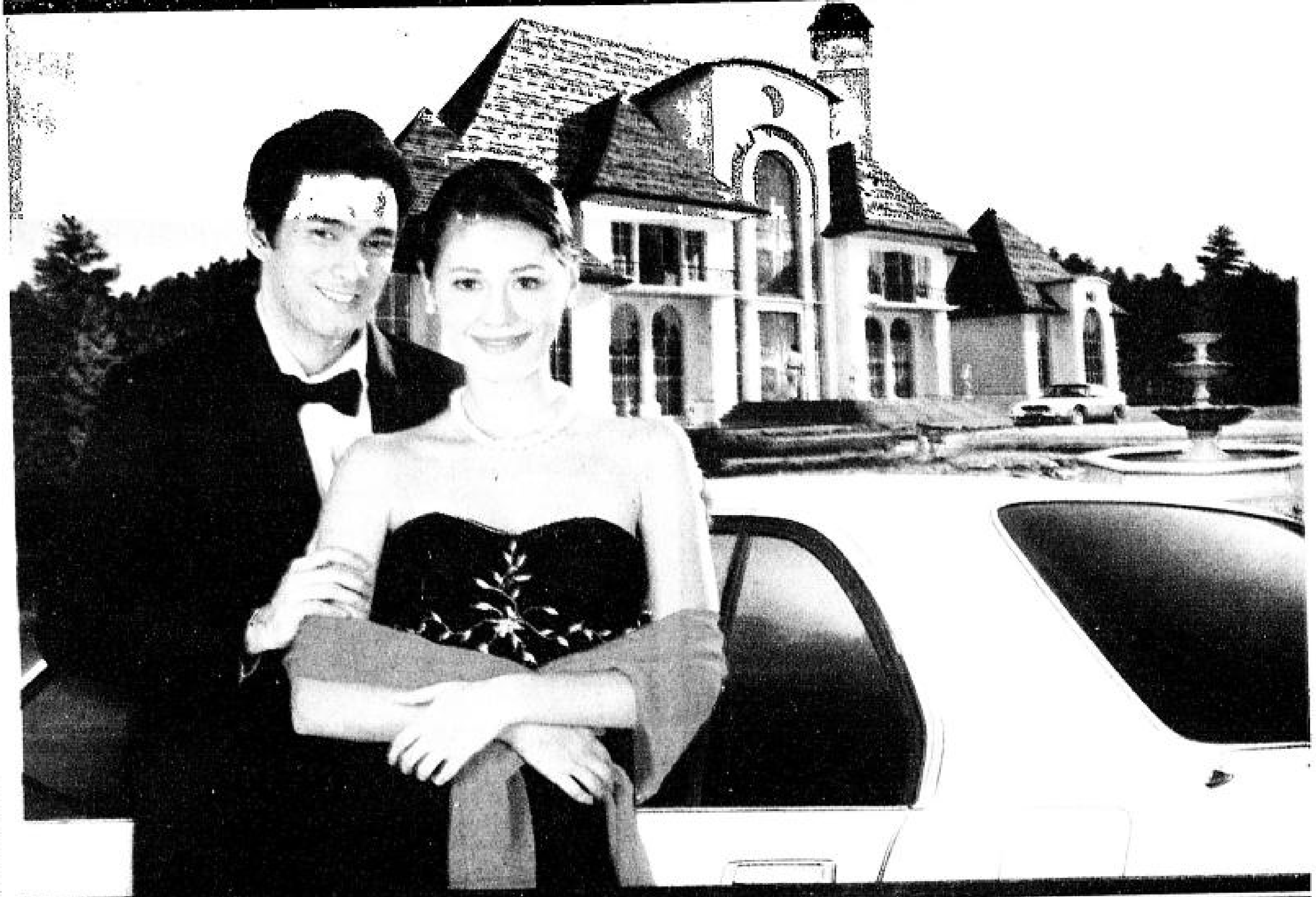

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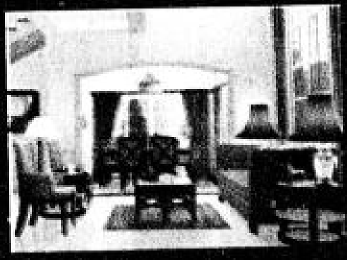

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC2006-04-0003

AMENDING DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2003-04-004 CREATING THE EXPANDED RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM TEAM

WHEREAS, the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 or "EPIRA," enacted in June 2001 declared as policy of the State the total electrification of the country and at the same allowed the participation of the private sector in missionary electrification;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the EPIRA, the Government has set the target of achieving 100% barangay electrification by 2008 and 90% household connection by 2017;

WHEREAS, the Letter of Sector Development Program jointly issued by the Department of Finance (DOF) and Department of Energy (DOE) on 07 March 2003 commits to the implementation of key reforms in the rural power sector;

WHEREAS, on 1 April 2003, the DOE issued Department Order No. 2003-04-004 creating the Expanded Rural Electrification Program Team ("ER Team") to manage the implementation of rural and missionary electrification program for the purpose of achieving the country's total electrification objectives;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing, the DOE: (i) completed the 2005-2009 Missionary Electrification Development Plan which outlined the specific policies, strategies and mechanisms for the implementation of the country's Expanded Rural Electrification (ER) Program through greater private sector participation (PSP); (ii) issued on 28 May 2004 Department Circular No. 2004-05-005 which streamlines and rationalizes the grant of subsidies in the electrification of missionary areas using Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems"; and (iii)issued on 18 June 2004 Department Circular No. 2004-06-006 and on 12 December 2005 Department Circular No. DC2005-12-011, prescribing the qualification criteria and participation guidelines for the Qualified Third Party (QTP) pursuant to Section 59 of the EPIRA and as detailed in Rule 14 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EPIRA with the objective of pursuing PSP Program in missionary areas;

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to refocus and strengthen the integrated and synchronized approach to rural and missionary electrification taking into account the institutional changes in the rural power sector as well as the recent policy issuances of the DOE to ensure and accelerate total electrification in a sustainable and holistic manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, the DOE hereby amends Department Order No. 2003-04-004 to reinforce the ER Team in the management of rural/missionary electrification program:

Section 1. Composition of the ER Program Team. The composition of the ER Program-Oversight Committee (ER Program-OC), the ER Program Technical Working Group (ER Program-TWG) and the ER Program Secretariat are hereby reconstituted as follows:

(A) Oversight Committee (ER Team-OC)

Oversight Chair:	Melinda L. Ocampo, Undersecretary - DOE
Alternate Chair:	Editha S. Bueno, Administrator - National Electrification Administration (NEA)
Members:	Director, DOE - Electric Power Industry Management Bureau (EPIMB)
	Director, DOE - Energy Policy and Planning Bureau (EPPB)
	Director, DOE - Energy Utilization and Management Bureau (EUMB)
	Department Manager - NPC-SPUG

To ensure consistency in policies and achieve effective collaboration, the following government agencies and their duly nominated representatives, may be requested to join the ER Team-OC as honorary members: (i) National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); (ii) Department of Finance (DOF); (iii) Department of Budget and Management (DBM); and (iv) other stakeholders in rural/missionary electrification, including the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) and private power producers also involved in electrification.

(B) Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (ER Team-TWG)

A Technical Working Group (TWG) shall provide assistance to the Oversight Committee and assist in the development of sub-programs, review and assessment of existing programs and formulate strategies for the efficient implementation of the ER Program Membership of the ER TWG shall be comprised of the following agencies and organizations:

Chair:	Director, DOE-EPIMB
Co-Chair:	Division Manager, Corporate Planning Department - NEA
Members:	Division Chief, Rural Electrification Administration and Management Division (DOE EPIMB-REAMD)
	Division Chief, EUMB-Renewable Energy Management Division (DOE-REMD)
	Division Manager - Project Management, NPC-SPUG
	Division Manager - Strategic Planning, NPC-SPUG
	Representative, DOE-EPPB
	Representative, Infrastructure Staff, NEDA
	Representatives from other ER Program partners and stakeholders

The ER Program TWG shall form the following Committees to oversee the various functions of the ER-TWG. The members of the Committees shall be selected by the ER Program TWG on the basis of qualifications/guidelines approved by the ER Team OC.

1. **Committee on Policy**
   (a) Identify the objectives of the ER Program and develop guidelines and specific strategies for its implementation;
   (b) Conduct regular assessment of the implementation of all program components and activities, identify gaps and issues, and recommend the continuation or cessation of certain programs as may be consistent with law and Government policies;
   (c) Review existing ER policies and guidelines and evaluate/assess their effectiveness in ensuring the ER targets are achieved as planned and in a timely manner;
   (d) Develop policies to address the issues/gaps affecting program implementation; and
   (e) Provide institutional support to the program implementation.

2. **Committee on Program Implementation and Operations**
   (a) Ensure coordination among the ER Team;
   (b) Actively monitor the implementation of programs and projects vis-a-vis the milestones/targets set and, in this regard, prepare and submit a monthly monitoring report to the Oversight Committee highlighting the critical problems/issues that are prevent or hinder the timely implementation of programs and projects, with copies of such report provided also to the implementing agency/ies for the project/program and the Policy Committee;
   (c) Coordinate closely with the Policy Committee to ensure that the necessary adjustments in the ER Program guidelines, strategies, and targets are made given the problems/issues identified during actual monitoring;
   (d) Plan and set milestones for the implementation of the ER program components and activities based on the objectives and strategies developed by the policy committee;
   (e) Implement specific objectives and activities of the ER Program;
   (f) Assist in the promotion of the ER Program;
   (g) Prepare reports, presentation/briefing materials, IEC documents, and other documentation relevant to the implementation of the ER Program; and
   (h) Collect information relevant to the ER Program and maintain in a database

3. **Committee on Investment and Financing**
   (a) Identify budgetary requirements in implementing the ER Program and coordinate with DBM and other donor agencies;
   (b) Identify and harmonize existing financing schemes set by various players implementing the ER Program;
   (c) Identify investment opportunities and assist in the development of proposals, and
   (d) Identify financing and investment issues and propose policies/strategies to address such issues.

(C) Secretariat/Support Staff (ER Team-Secretariat)

The DOE-REAMD will serve as the ER Team-Secretariat. It shall be assisted by at the minimum of two (2) representatives from DOE-EPPB, DOE-EUMB, NEA and NPC-SPUG.

Section 2. Responsibilities of the ER Program Team. The scope of responsibilities of the ER Program Team is hereby expanded to include the review and endorsement of projects and activities in relation to the Qualified Third Party (QTP) program that require authorization from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). In this regard, the Technical Working Group formed under DOE Department Circular No.DC2005-12-011 shall inform the ER Team OC of its recommendations and regularly report on the progress and development of the PSP in rural/missionary areas.

The ER Program Team shall also serve as the clearinghouse of all rural and missionary electrification initiatives in the country, including those supported by bilateral/multilateral agencies and donor entities, for the approval of the DOE Secretary

The ER Program Team shall request assistance and information from other entities such as QTPs, financing institutions, non-government organizations, and private entities, whenever necessary, to provide insights and valuable inputs to the ER Program Team in the exercise of its mandate.

Section 3. Creation of the Unified Electrification Subsidy Sub-Committee (UESC). In compliance with DOE DC No. 2004-05-005, an UESC was created to operate under the supervision of the ER Program Team. The UESC shall identify any existing subsidy design in all rural and missionary electrification projects, including solar PV systems installations, and recommend to the ER Oversight Committee a rationalized system for allocation of project subsidies, if any. The UESC shall regularly update the ER Oversight Committee on the appropriate guidelines for the provision of subsidy to rural electrification projects, including those using solar PV systems, for the formulation of recommendations to and approval of the DOE Secretary .

Section 4. Scope of Coverage. The scope and coverage of the ER Program, as provided in Section 3 of DOE DC No. 2003-04-004, shall be expanded to include projects and activities initiated by or involving private sector participants, including QTPs.

Section 5. Miscellaneous. Heads of the concerned divisions/bureaus and agencies in Section 1 hereof shall inform the DOE in writing, within five (5) days from issuance of the Circular, of the names of their respective representatives. The Oversight Committee shall meet at least once every month commencing not later than the calendar month immediately following the effectivity of this Circular The Oversight Committee shall set the schedule. of meetings of the other committees established under Section 1 of this Circular.

Section 6. No repeal or amendment. Other provisions of DOE DC 2003-04-004 not otherwise inconsistent with this Circular shall remain valid and in effect until revoked, modified or further amended.

This amended Department Circular shall take effect after publication in a newspaper of general circulation

Issued this 7th day of April 2006, Taguig City.

RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
Secretary

(PDI--April 29, 2006)

Teen gangs clash in Manila

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A DAY AFTER AN ALLEGED member of a teenage gang died in Pandacan, Manila, a woman was shot dead in Tondo after she looked out of the window during a brawl between rival groups early yesterday morning.

SPO2 Eduardo Cabal of the Manila Police District Homicide Division identified the victim as Merla Dumaycos, 36, of 42-C Sto. Nino St. in Herbosa, Tondo.

Investigation showed that a commotion outside Dumaycos' house had roused her from sleep at around 2 a.m.

When the victim looked out of the window to see what was going on, a bullet hit her on the left side of her forehead.

Police said the victim was declared dead on arrival at Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital. Authorities are hunting down the still unidentified teenage suspects behind the riot, Cabal said .

On Thursday, a 17-year-old boy was shot dead while two others were injured when a free-for-all erupted between two rival gangs in Pandacan. Earlier this year, Manila policemen had arrested two minors in connection with the death of a high school student in Pandacan on Jan. 27.

Less than a month after the Pandacan incident, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) had filed murder charges against another teenager who stabbed to death a 41-year-old man in Tondo.

NBI Interpol Supervising Agent Dominador Villanueva III said the 17 suspects, all members of True Blue Style Gang, have been "a serious community problem" for the past three years.

With Erika Sauler, trainee

METROBRIEFS

Fake Harry toys

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) seized P2 million worth of counterfeit Harry Potter toys during simultaneous raids conducted on Wednesday. NBI agents seized the fake toys from a sales outlet and warehouse in Tondo, Manila, owned by SOE Trading Corp. and DNI Properties Management Corp. NBI agents led by special investigator Adjutor Larosa confiscated 1,737 pieces of assorted toys, packaging materials, receipts and invoices. The NBI had placed the establishments under surveillance and conducted test buys after Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. filed a complaint. Charges of unfair competition and trademark infringement have been lodged against the owners of the shops for distributing and selling the counterfeit products. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

UST homecoming

IN celebration of its 395th founding anniversary, the University of Santo Tomas, through the council of alumni presidents chaired by Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr., and the UST Public and Alumni Affairs Office, will hold its grand alumni homecoming today at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Registration starts at 5 p.m. The event, with the theme "Connecting, Converging, Building Bridges towards UST 2011" aims to gather all alumni and faculty of the university's colleges and schools. For tickets and details, please contact the Public and Alumni Affairs Office at tel. nos. 7313544 or 4061611 local 8315 or e-mail paao@mnl.ust.edu.ph

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2. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from WVSUMC Supply Office and upon payment of nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos Only (P5,000.00)** to the West Visayas State University Medical Center Cashier. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
3. The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 15-17, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 18, 2006; 9 AM, Conference Room
3. Opening of Bids	May 30, 2006; 9 AM, Conference Room

4. Submission of Bids shall be on May 30, 2006 not later than 9:00 AM at WVSUMC, Conference Room, Ground Floor. The eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals will be opened immediately in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
5. All particulars relative to eligibility, bidding, and evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
6. WVSUMC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not to award the contract for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Government, and WVSUMC shall not be liable whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of this bid.

(Sgd.) **ANNA VICTORIA J. SOMBONG, M.D.**
BAC-Chairman

(PDI--April 29 & May 6, 2006)

Gernale slay suspect gets 30 years in prison

By Tina G. Santos

A MEMBER OF THE ALEX BONcayao Brigade (ABB) hit squad was found guilty on Thursday of killing the son of a Manila councilor more than 11 years ago.

Judge Teresa Soriaso of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 27 sentenced Julio Villanueva alias Allan Dino to 30 years in prison for killing Jay Gernale, son of Councilor Roger Gernale. The court also ordered Villanueva to pay P197,000 in damages to the victim's heirs.

Gernale was only 24 years old and the vice president of his family's construction company when he was killed on Jan. 30, 1995.

The victim was driving on J. Zamora Street in Pandacan, Manila, when the accused, with other suspects, including a certain Honesto Naceno, who remains at large, shot him.

Rape victim should be allowed to have abortion

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THERE OUGHT TO be a law in the country that allows the abortion of a fetus that is a product of incestuous rape.

Nena (not her real name), a frail 13-year-old girl, is four months pregnant, a victim of rape by her own father. She was brought to me at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" by her mother.

Nena, who will be in high school when school opens in June, looks every bit a girl barely entering her teens. She was just starting to menstruate four months ago when her father raped her.

The father ran away after Nena told her mother about the rape. But sending the father to jail is not only Nena's problem. Her other problem, if you ask me, is how she will be able to take care of an offspring that will surely be mentally and physically handicapped. A child that is a product of incest will have mental and physical defects.

I asked some lawyers—among them Vicente Chuidian and police Director Marcelo Ele Jr.—about the possibility of having the fetus aborted. They said said it was illegal.

But how could our laws be so uncaring about the stigma to be carried by a girl who will soon bear a child who is both a son/daughter and brother/sister?

In the United States, the law allows women who are rape victims to abort the fetus.

* * *

US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney said in a speech before the American Chamber of Commerce that corruption was one of the reasons preventing economic development in the Philippines. Kenney should be assured that the new Ombudsman, Merceditas Gutierrez, is bent on cleaning up the government of thieves and misfits.

Since she took over as the government corruption watchdog, Gutierrez has dismissed 23 erring government officials and suspended 33 others.

Not like her predecessor, Simeon Marcelo, who was a slowpoke. Marcelo did the country a favor by resigning since he was not up to the job.

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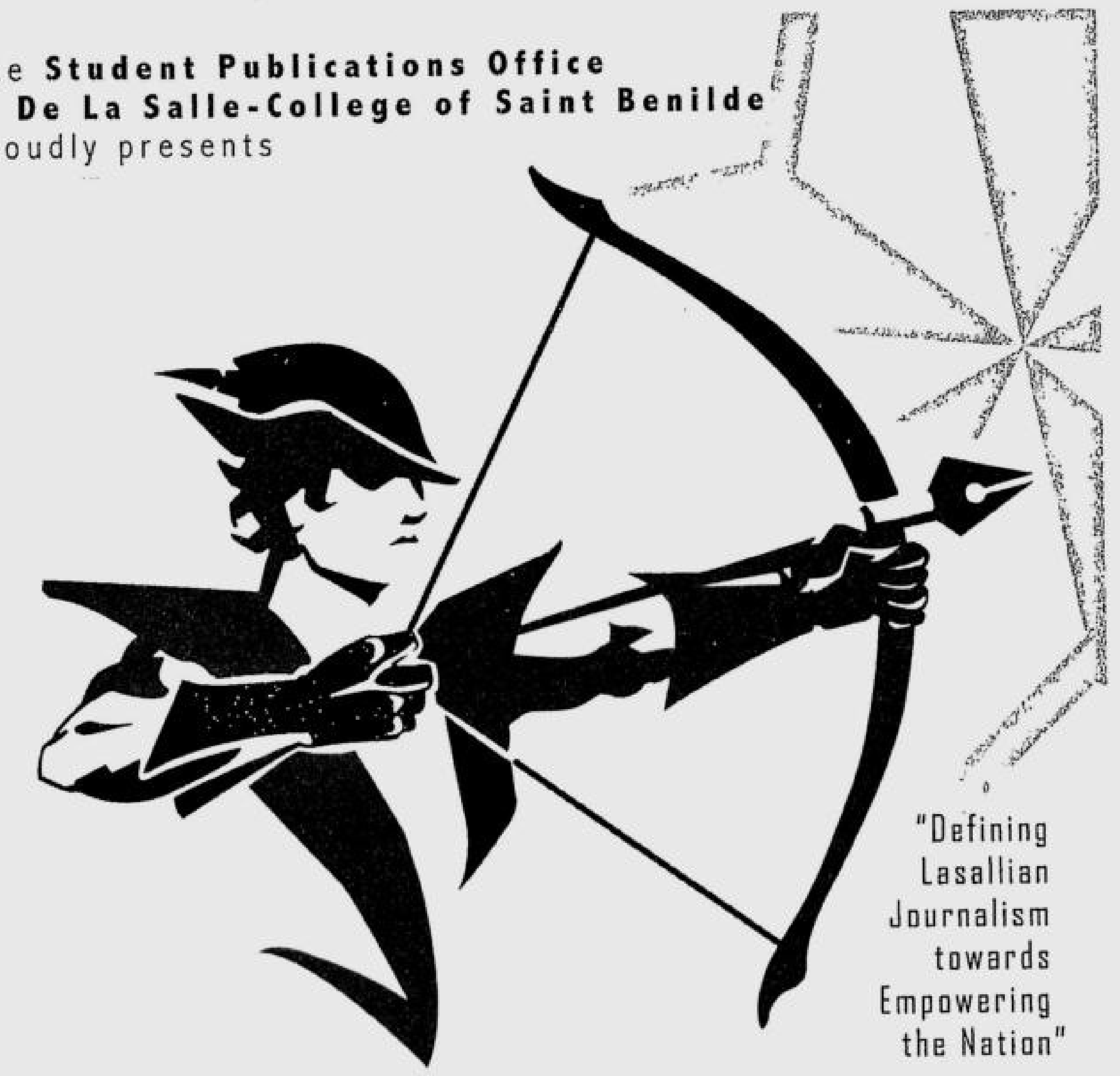

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Blair hit with a week's shower of political woes

LONDON—BAD LUCK CAME IN threes this week for Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose increasingly unpopular government suddenly found itself dealing with three wildly dissimilar but equally embarrassing problems, each involving a different Cabinet minister.

Blair's Labor government has been in power for nine years and has been particularly skilled at deflecting trouble. But these latest difficulties have come a week before local elections across the country that will, inevitably, be taken as a referendum on voters' attitudes toward the Labor Party.

The first problem concerns Charles Clarke, who as home secretary presides over a majority of the prime minister's most unpopular and important programs, including law and order and immigration policy.

Those two policies crashed awkwardly this week when it emerged that for unexplained reasons, 1,023 foreigners who had been convicted of crimes and were supposed to be considered for deportation after serving prison sentences had, in fact, been set free over the last seven years—and no one seemed to know what happened to them.

Clarke, who admitted knowing about the problem for 10 months, and who said publicly that "I have failed," is facing a chorus of opposition calls for his resignation even as Blair says he does not plan to give up his home minister.

The second problem is an old-fashioned sex scandal involving another Blair stalwart, Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott. On Wednesday, The Daily Mirror reported that Prescott, 67, an old-style Laborite loved by the left wing of the party for his blunt-spoken ways and gruff manner, had a torrid affair with a secretary in his office.

The third issue concerns problems bubbling up in the National Health Service, the reform of which has been one of the cornerstones of Blair's legislative program. In its first years in office, Blair's Labor government poured billions of dollars into the health service, allowing hospitals to raise salaries, hire new doctors and nurses and open new wards. *NYT*

Male circumcision seen as a potent weapon vs HIV

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA—FOR well over a decade, southern Africans have battled the spread of AIDS with everything from condoms and abstinence campaigns to doses of anti-retroviral drugs for pregnant women—and generally found themselves losing.

Now a growing number of clinicians and policymakers in the region are pointing to a simple and possibly potent weapon against new infections: circumcision for men.

Armed with new studies suggesting that male circumcision can reduce the chance of HIV infection in men, and perhaps in women, health workers in two southern African nations are pressing to make circumcisions broadly available to meet what they call a burgeoning demand for them.

The validity of the approach is still being tested. But in Lusaka, Zambia, surgeons began offering circumcisions for about $3 some 18 months ago and are urging the government to expand the service across the country.

Dr. Kasonde Bowa, a urologist at the hospital, says about 400 patients a month request the procedure—eight times as many as the surgeons can accommodate. "One reason we decided to set up this service was the increasing evidence in the research in relation to reducing HIV," he said. "The evidence is very strong."

In Swaziland, the Health Ministry has trained doctors in circumcision, responding to what it called a surge in desire for the procedure. Studies indicate that circumcision may protect against HIV, the ministry said, adding that the service should be more widely available.

Other policymakers in the region are holding back, waiting for direction from the World Health Organization. Officials there say the evidence so far, while intriguing, is not definitive enough to call for a shift in strategy on HIV prevention. *NYT*

REUTERS

ACCUSED BABY KILLER

Sabine H., a German mother accused of killing nine newborn babies over a decade and burying them in flower pots, went on trial Thursday.

AP

JOSEPHINE BAKER, US ICON

Josephine Baker strikes a pose during her Ziegfeld Follies performance of "The Conga" on the Winter Garden Theater stage in New York, Feb. 11, 1936. An exhibit in St. Louis where she was born 100 years ago highlights the career of the black entertainer who left a segregated US in the '20s to become an international superstar and the toast of Paris.

WORLDBRIEFS

US eyes nuke cooperation pact with Russia

WASHINGTON—The United States is discussing the possibility of a civilian nuclear energy agreement with Russia that could help wean Moscow away from cooperation with Iran, according to US officials. In recent interviews, several US officials said a possible nuclear energy accord with Moscow is under review. Such an agreement would be a significant change in US policy, which now prohibits most nuclear cooperation with Russia because of Moscow's pivotal role in building Iran's $800-million nuclear power plant at Bushehr. *Reuters*

Construction begins at Twin Towers site

NEW YORK—Bulldozers rumbled into a giant pit on Thursday to begin building a new skyscraper to replace the World Trade Center in an act New York's governor said symbolized the city's comeback from the Sept. 11 attacks. Work on the Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan began a day after developer Larry Silverstein and the land owner, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, resolved long-running acrimonious disputes over money, security and design. The 540-meter (1,776-foot) tower will be among the tallest in the world. The site will include three other high rises plus a residential tower that will surround a memorial, museum and cultural center dedicated to what relatives of the Sept. 11 victims consider a sacred site. Construction is scheduled to be finished by 2011 or 2012. *Reuters*

Judges fail to resolve Thailand crisis

BANGKOK—Thailand's top judges failed Friday to reach an agreement on nullifying this month's elections after the king urged them to help out an end to a months-long political crisis, an official said. The chief justices of the country's top three courts met for less than two hours to discuss the crisis that has gripped Thailand, sent tens of thousands into the streets and forced Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to step aside. Speaking on behalf of the judges, Charan Pakdithanakul said all they had agreed to do for now was to speed up deliberations on a dozen cases already filed in the three courts contesting the fairness of the election process. They had been expected to decide on the validity of the elections or clear legal hurdles paving the way for parliament to open and form a new government. *AFP*

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Prospective Bidders who are issued bid documents are required to attend the ***Pre-Bid Conference to be held at the HROD Seminar Room on May 08, 2006, starting at 9:00 A.M.***

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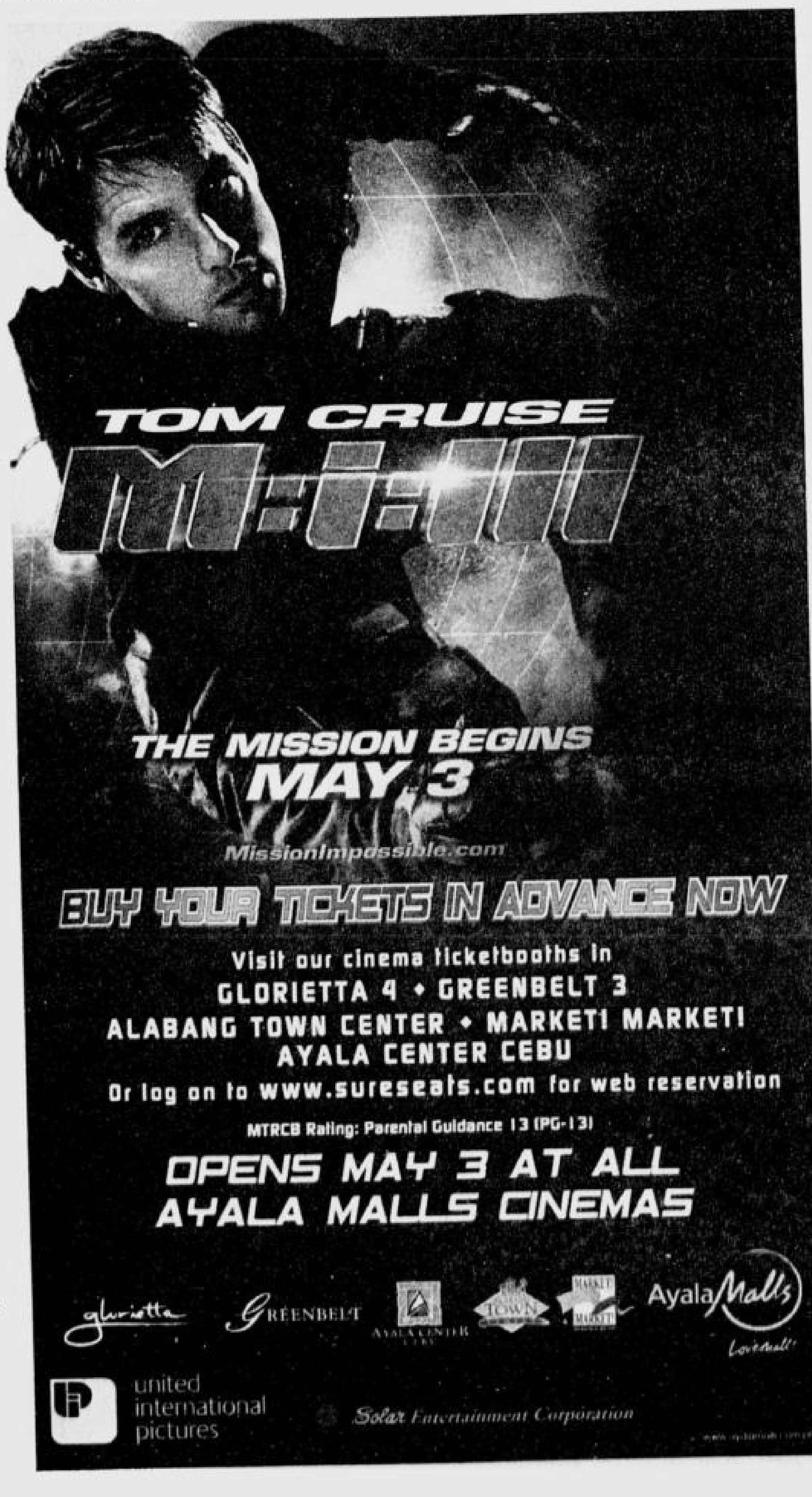
MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bid without offering any reason, waive any and all informalities therein and award the contract to one or more bidders under any circumstances which are deemed most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) LUIS Z. LERMA
Manager , Purchasing Dept.

(PDI - April 29 & 30, 2006)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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

IAEA likely to find Iran defying UN

Report of world nuclear watchdog could unleash sanctions on Tehran

VIENNA—THE WORLD'S NUCLEAR WATCHDOG is likely to confirm in a report to the UN Security Council on Friday that Iran has flouted demands to stop enriching uranium, a verdict that could unleash moves to hit Tehran with sanctions.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei was also expected to say Iran was still stalling IAEA inquiries into its nuclear work, the other salient issue cited in a 30-day Council deadline for Iranian cooperation that expires on Friday.

But Iranian defiance has only hardened over the last month, with Tehran saying it has enriched enough uranium to fuel power plants for the first time and is researching a machine to enrich even faster, adding that its nuclear drive was irreversible.

In the last two days before the report, Iran has vowed to hit US targets worldwide if attacked by Washington, which has not ruled out war as a last resort to rein in Tehran.

And Iran's UN envoy said on Thursday Tehran would not heed a looming Security Council resolution aimed at corralling its nuclear ambitions because its programs posed no threat to international peace and security, as Western leaders contend.

"If the Security Council decides to take decisions that are not within its competence, then Iran does not feel obliged to obey," Iranian Ambassador Javad Zarif told reporters.

Diplomats anticipated no big surprises in the report.

"ElBaradei obviously will have to report that far from suspending enrichment, Iran is steaming ahead," said one Western diplomat accredited to the Vienna-based IAEA.

Diplomats said questions persisted over Iranian research on advanced "P-2" centrifuges, documents found that show how to design an atomic bomb core, and intelligence reports of links between processing of uranium ore, high-explosives tests and a missile warhead design.

Mark Fitzpatrick, nuclear analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said world leaders would look for any substantiation in the report of Iran's claims to rapid progress toward mastering the enrichment process.

"Answers to such questions will be important in helping the world understand the degree of urgency of the crisis and scope for diplomacy. If the IAEA cannot say much about Iran's progress, then policymakers will rely more on worst-case scenarios," Fitzpatrick told Reuters. *Reuters*

Nepal king appoints new PM

KATMANDU—NEPAL'S KING Gyanendra formally named a new prime minister on Thursday as Maoist rebels began a three-month ceasefire that brought hope of an end to decades of unrest in the Himalayan kingdom.

The king appointed 84-year-old Girija Prasad Koirala after he was picked earlier in the week by the seven-party opposition alliance as the man they wanted to hold the reins of power when parliament reconvenes on Friday.

But Koirala was unable to attend his own swearing-in ceremony on Friday morning because of bronchitis, relatives and officials said.

The decision to postpone his swearing-in means that parliament, due to open in the afternoon for the first time in four years, is unlikely to make any substantive decisions.

Koirala's daughter Sujata said her father had bronchitis and was on antibiotics. He had also been given oxygen and a saline drip on Thursday, but his health was gradually improving.

"He is an old man, he is taking rest," she told Reuters outside his room. "The only problem is that it was too hectic a schedule and he is tired."

Political institutions in Nepal were mothballed four years ago and King Gyanendra seized absolute power for himself in February 2005, ostensibly due to the failure of the government to quell the Maoist revolt.

This all changed on Monday when King Gyanendra agreed in a televised address Monday to reinstate parliament, buckling after 19 days of protests on the streets of the capital.

He went on to ask the opposition to choose a new prime minister while crowds flooded the streets—claiming a "people's victory" in their struggle against the king—and the capital Katmandu began to return to normal.

"His Majesty (the) King has appointed Girija Prasad Koirala as the new premier upon recommendation from the seven agitating political parties," a statement from the royal palace said.

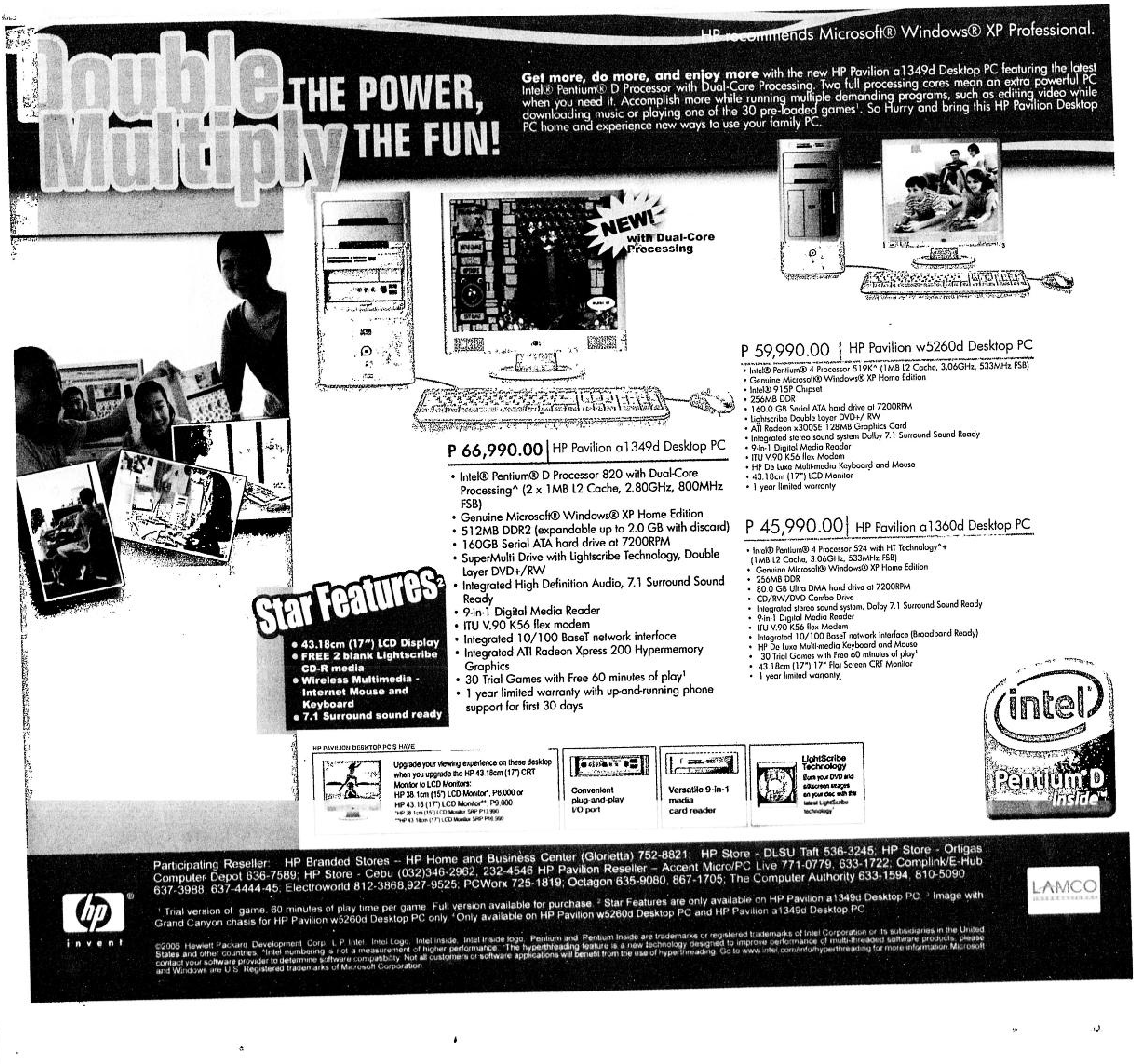
The Maoist rebels first rejected the king's offer to reconvene parliament after weeks of street protests, saying it did not go far enough after nearly 15 months of his absolute rule.

But in a statement early Thursday, leader Prachanda said the rebels would halt offensive operations after a bloody 10-year insurgency that has left more than 12,500 dead.

"Our party once again declares a unilateral ceasefire, effective immediately, for three months," said Prachanda.

The rebel army would stop attacking security services, but would remain in "active defense position," said a statement from the Maoist leader. *AFP, Reuters*

PRO-DEMOCRACY activists listen to speeches at a rally called by opposition parties at Ratna Park in Katmandu, Nepal, April 27. Tens of thousands of Nepalis gathered in central Katmandu to hear leaders of the new government speak a day before parliament was to reconvene. Nepal's communist rebels have declared a three-month ceasefire after weeks of bloody protests. At center is the Nepalese flag. AP



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HOPE PBA ALL-STARS

Canaleta still king of dunks

GAMES TODAY (*Xavier University Gym*)
5 p.m.—Legends Three-Point Shootout
6 p.m.—North vs South All-Star Game

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO—KG CANALETA MADE it two-in-a-row while the third time's a charm for Will Antonio, especially in a contest of shooting threes.

Canaleta won the title with little fanfare, knocking Red Bull's Cyrus Baguio in the finals of the slam dunk competition in the side event of the 2006 Hope PBA All-Star Weekend at the Xavier University gym here.

Baguio, the 2004 slam king, caught the leather in mid-air after a bounce but blew the stylish try in the process. He got a re-dunk and scored 44.

But Canaleta already scored a perfect 50 in his first attempt on the way to retaining his title.

Antonio's win was a little more dramatic.

The Coca-Cola gunner defeated San Miguel sniper Olsen Racela to finally crown himself three-point king.

Playing in his third shoot-out contest, Antonio nailed the second ball of the final rack to provide the clincher against Racela.

The 6-foot-3 Antonio has joined the event twice before. He was seventh in his rookie year in 1988 and wound up second behind Boyet Fernandez in 2002.

In the other events, Talk 'N Text's Willie Miller beat 2005 winner Topex Robinson in the obstacle challenge. Miller made it a double when he topped the trick-shot contest.

Later in the night, the Sophomores defeated the Rookies, 133-123, in the Blitz game.

Meanwhile, Marc Caguioa will be fined at least P20,000 by the PBA Commissioner's Office for failing to attend the functions in the All-Star Week sponsored by Sunbolt, Air21, Chowking, Mentos, Accel, Xtreme Magic Sing and Welcoat Paints.

PROTAGONISTS: Manny Pacquiao (left) and Oscar Larios strike a pose at yesterday's press conference. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Super fight offered free; Pacquiao training in US

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

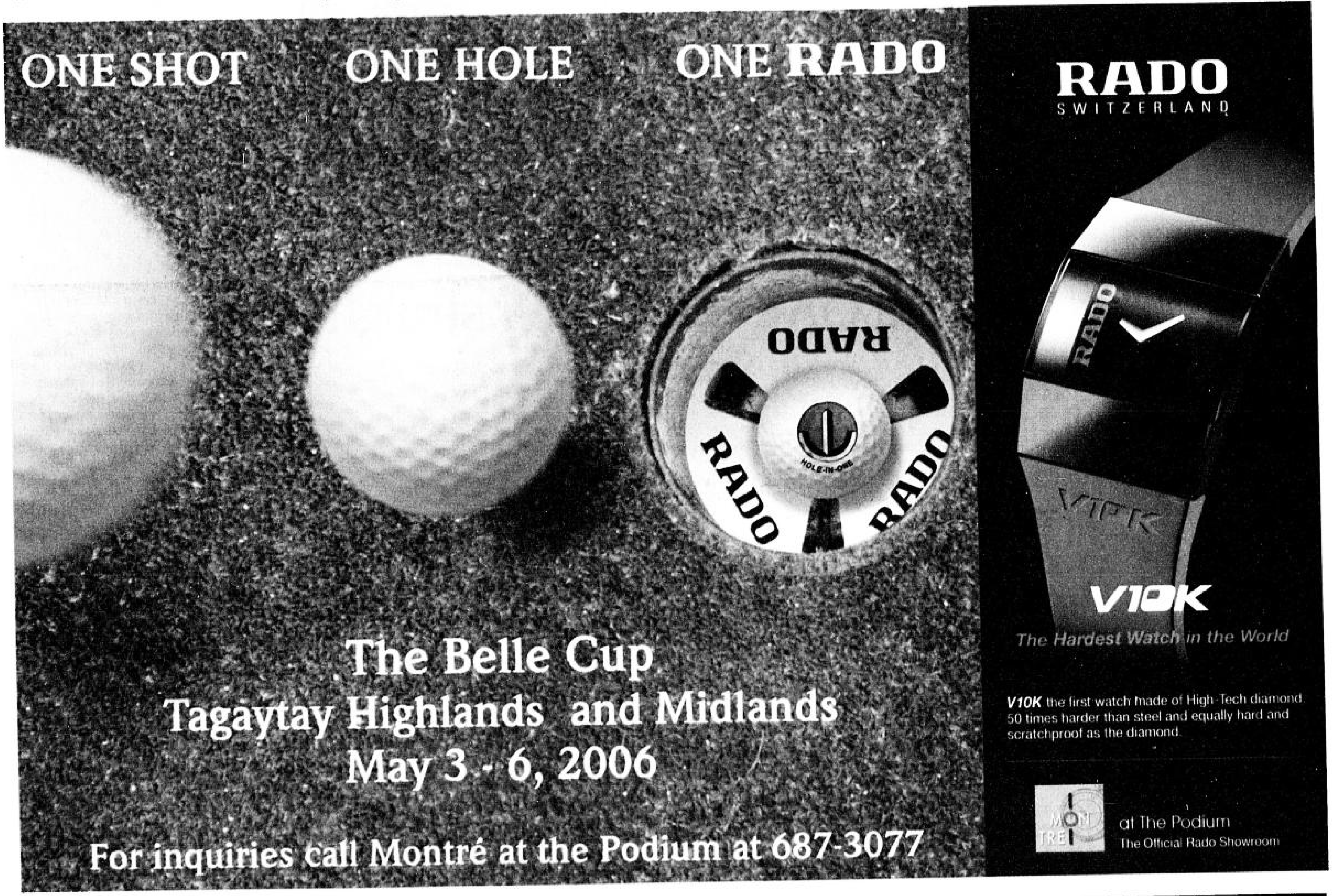
FIRST, THE GOOD NEWS. MANNY PACQUIAO WILL train in the United States, after all.

Now, a better, more exciting information: ABS-CBN is giving away general admission tickets worth P2.5 million to those who want to watch the July 2 fight between Pacquiao and Oscar Larios of Mexico at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pacquiao had initially expressed his desire to skip training in the US for the Larios fight but yesterday, the Filipino boxing hero decided to drop the plan following a man-to-man conference with trainer Freddie Roach, who came all the way from California.

Pacquiao, according to manager Nick Khan, should be in Los Angeles on May 13, return to the Philippines on June

SUPER/ A26



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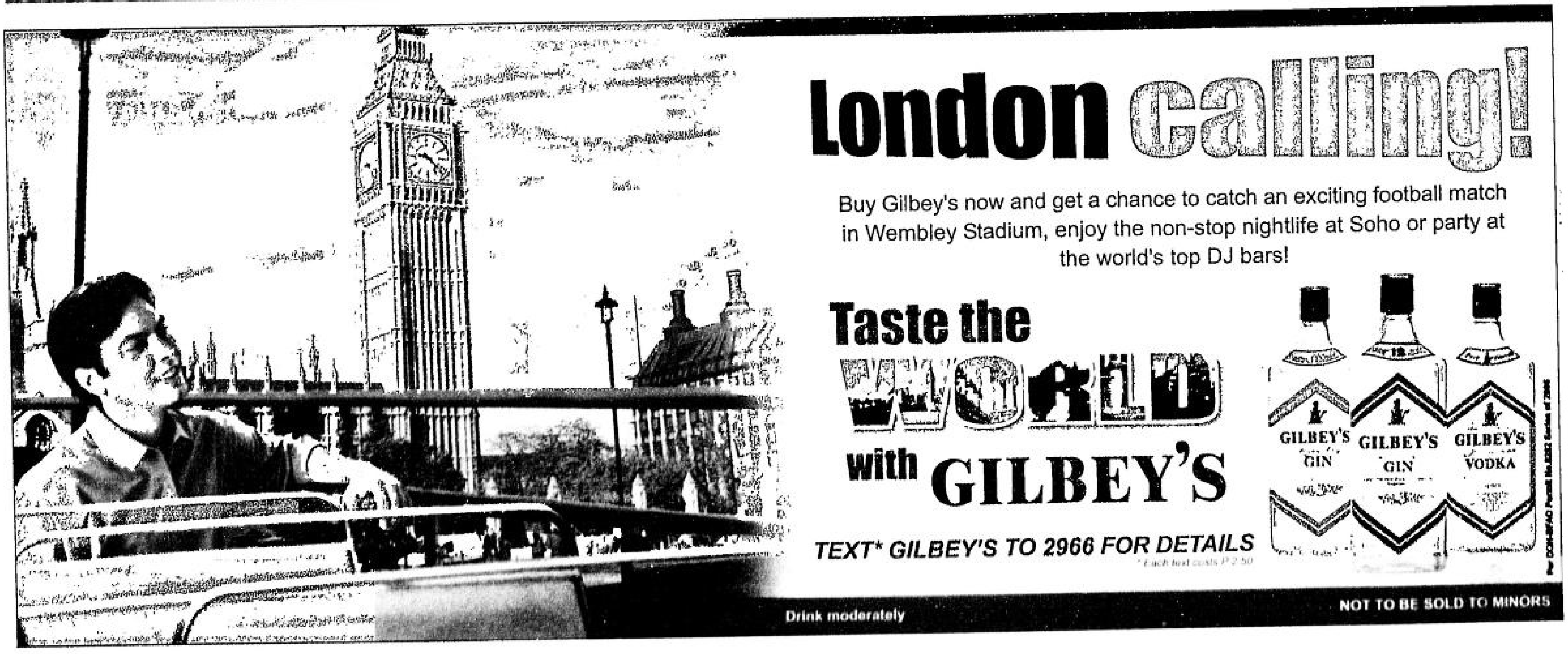

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Jewels gun for share of lead vs Titans

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G. Goose	4	4
Magnolia	4	4
Hapee-PCU	3	6
Harbour	3	6
TeleTech	1	7

GAMES TODAY
(*Olivarez Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—TeleTech vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Magnolia

AFTER YIELDING THE SOLO LEAD TO RAIN or Shine in the PBL Unity Cup, the Montaña Jewels will try to recover their winning groove versus struggling newcomer TeleTech Titans today at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque City.

The Jewels will again vie for a piece of the top at 2 p.m. behind the leadership of Alex Compton and Froilan Baguion.

Granny Goose and Magnolia Ice Cream, meanwhile, will try to overcome their surprisingly erratic performances this conference. Toting similar 4-4 cards, both teams will vie for their first back-to-back victories at 4 p.m.

Coach Koy Banal remains hopeful that his Spinners, last conference's champion, will find their winning form.

"Our game has been on and off, so we hope to be more consistent," said Banal after the Spinners opened their second-round campaign with a 74-65 triumph against Harbour Center.

"We're just waiting for our back-to-back wins, that's our hump that we have to overcome."

The Tortillos are expected to turn to big man JR Quiñahan, Kelvin dela Peña and Jett Latonio, who topscored with 16 points in their recent 66-54 win over Hapee-PCU.

The Jewels, who sport a second-best 6-2 card, are coming off a disappointing 86-94 overtime loss to Rain or Shine last Tuesday. After taking control most of the game, the Jewels couldn't find their scoring touch in the extra period.

Jasmine W. Payo

So suffers first loss in Dubai Chess tilt

FILIPINO FIDE MASTER WESLEY SO FALTERED IN the dying minutes and yielded to Armenian Super Grandmaster Gabriel Sargissian Thursday night in the fifth round of the 8th Dubai Open at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The 12-year-old So suffered his first loss after 61 moves of a Nimzo Indian Defense but stayed in contention with 3.5 points and four more rounds to go. Sargissian now has 4.5 points and shares the lead with No. 2 GM Darmen Sadvakasov, GM Evgenij Miroshnichenko and GM Giorgi Kacheishvili.

NM Marlon Bernadino

Korea's Kim pockets Asian 9-Ball crown

By Musong R. Castillo

SOUTH KOREA'S KIM GA-YOUNG CAPTURED THE ENERVA ASIAN LADIES 9-BALL Championship in runaway fashion with an 11-4 mastery of Taiwan's Kao Shu-pin for the $10,000 top prize yesterday.

There were 14 entries from Chinese-Taipei, with three entering the semifinals, but the two-time defending world champion Kim averted an all-Taiwanese final by dumping Lin Yuan-chun, 9-5, before springing the final ambush.

Iris Rañola, the last Filipina standing, took a 9-6 beating at the hands of Kao, who went all the way to the championship match of the $30,000 event among players from nine Asian countries.

Rañola fought hard but saw her efforts fall short as the Taiwanese advanced to the semifinals, thereby relegating the Filipino to an eighth-place finish.

After that victory over Rañola, Kao then nipped compatriot Lin Pei-chun in the semifinals, 9-8, for a seat in the title match witnessed by a good-sized crowd at the fountain area of the Robinson's Galleria. Kao won $5,000.

Playing for father Emilio who is battling stage-four throat cancer back in Zamboanga, Rañola won $1,500 (about P78,000) and steadily improved on her performance after finishing 32nd in the World Pool championship and 24th in the Japan Open last year.

It was the best finish by a local bet in the event, after ace Rubilen Amit fell Thursday afternoon to Japanese Akimi Kajitani, 7-9.

The event was the biggest pool tournament for women held in the country and a total of eight Filipinos actually competed, with six, including RP No. 2 Mary Ann Basas, failing to make it past qualifying.

SURPRISE VISITORS: 1-year-old Kurt Faizal Takbubong and his mother with Purefoods' James Yap (right) and commissioner Noli Eala during the PBA stars' visit to the Mindanao Medical Center in Misamis Oriental yesterday. Kurt suffers from an ailment known as posterior fossa tumor, a swelling of the brain. *Story on A25.* ERIK ARAZAS

Can Rodman save NBA tour?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

AFTER GREAT EXpectations, American promoter Mario Whitmire should brace for the worst in the NBA veterans tour headed by Bad Boy Dennis Rodman.

Mario thought the project would ensure a rich box office, not to mention a successful marketing of the television coverage. He signed up a handful of former NBA stars giving each of them a downpayment of $10,000. The balance of $5,000 was to be paid later.

* * *

The other day, a friend who wanted to watch "The Bad Boy Tour" called the Araneta Coliseum to inquire about ticket prices. The lady at the other end of the line said patron tickets cost P5,000-plus each and general admission seats P300, binoculars not included.

Wow! Only about a week ago, he had called the same number for an initial inquiry. At that time, patron tickets were pegged at P15,000 apiece and the bleachers seats at P800 each.

For Mario, the project was now turning into a nightmare. As of last Wednesday, only a minute fraction of the tickets was sold, and the television sponsorship did not measure up even to half of what was expected.

Looking gravely harassed, Mario was now turning paranoid. He has started blaming everybody, except himself, for the impending fiasco. Filipino volunteers he had been dealing with reported that his group had been so difficult to deal with.

They were talking to so many people at the same time for overlapping jobs and deals and these led to confusion.

At the end of the day, the chaos took its toll. Or maybe the market, despite Rodman, just wasn't too interested in watching a group of has-beens play for so much money. You will probably know what I'm talking about on Monday, Labor Day, also the day Rodman and company will display their wares at the Big Dome.

* * *

The Manny Pacquiao vs Oscar Larios "Mano a Mano" presscon was scheduled 11 a.m. yesterday at Studio 9 of ABS-CBN in Quezon City.

With the venue just a stone's throw away from my residence, I almost made it on time, give or take a few minutes. As in the past, I headed straight for the parking area inside the network to avail of valet service.

The security guard immediately approached me, explaning in a low voice that there had been a restructuring of valet rates. I asked him for the new rate, but he wouldn't tell me. I even kidded him that they must have upped the old P40 to P100 that's why he was too shy to talk.

The valet attendant finally broke the news: "We are now charging P150 for the first hour and P100 for every succeeding hour," he said.

Two hundred and fifty pesos for what I estimated to be a two-hour presscon. It would be the most I would ever pay for parking in my whole life. But when I thought of the scorching heat outside, I decided to let go of my P250, which could be P350 if I was even just a second late in retrieving my car. I heard somebody say that only two cars had availed of valet service that day.

I craned my neck to take a peek inside the studio but a guard blocked my view.

"No peeking until 1 p.m.," he said.

The invitation said 11 a.m. but showtime wasn't until 1 p.m. I thought of the valet meter ticking.

Inspite of the enormous parking fee I would incur, I wanted to stay even for just a few minutes to see a portion of the show, but I had a deadline to beat.

To lessen my anxiety, Peter Musngi, old friend Diana Sayson and Ms Maloli Espinosa offered to give me a parking pass for my valet service.

The attendant only charged me P50 for valet fee. I missed the actual presscon, though, which they said was over by 2 p.m.

SPORTSWATCH

Chase for semis berths on

CARLO REMO OF KASON AND JOHN MAGANIS of Fairview Smashers clash for the first semifinal slot in the JVC Open Juniors Badminton Championships as action in the 10-under division resumes today at SM Marilao. Three Centro Atletico bets also open their semifinal bids with Renz Monterubio taking on Gio Angsico of RAQ4 Cock; Alvin Morada clashing with Kenneth Joven of Precision; and Vincent Manuel colliding with Gio Pinpin of Golden Shuttle. Poveda's Cassandra Lim eyes the first semifinal berth in the girls side against Ingrid Obinial of Malolos Shuttlers. Another match pits Patrice Israel of Sportszone against Abbygale Evangelista of 5AM Badminton.

Binangonan Balbina wins

BINANGONAN BALBINA OF ITO YNARES BESTed its five opponents Tuesday night to emerge solo champion in the National Cockers Association's final 5-cock derby for April at the newly renovated Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Lucky Rin Firefly Binangonan I of Ric de Guzman and Rene Medina missed the championship by half a point when it tied with Jade Resort Juliane of Manny and Arman Santos in their first encounter. In third spot with 4 points each were Lucky Rin Firefly Binangonan, also of the De Guzman-Medina tandem; Iggy Arroyo's Red Creek II and Ronnie Puno's Wild Wing Sundance.

Makati 6-cock derby up

THE SUMMER SALPUKAN 6-COCK DERBY, which has attracted more than 300 entries so far, resumes today with 80 encounters at the Makati Coliseum. Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Ace. Today's 3-cock second round eliminations start at 5 p.m. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co announced that cockers and breeders may still join on May 2, 4 and 6. The finals blast off on May 11 and 13. "Everyone should pass the elimination round and no straight six cocks will be allowed on any day," Orillaza said. For inquiries, call Joan or Stephanie at 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Super Big Event today

THE BATTLE OF COCKFIGHT BIG SHOTS GETS going today in the Super Big Event 7-cock derby at the San Juan Coliseum. More than 80 first fights are lined up beginning at 5 p.m. The derby, with an entry fee of P550,000, is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Patrick Antonio, one of the derby organizers, will team up with boxing idol Manny Pacquiao and battle the likes of Gov. Chavit Singson, Robert Uy and Dori Du of Davao, Wakee Salud of Cebu, Bebot Roxas of Tarlac and Elmer and Dodong Codilla of Ormoc.

Tukaan at Roligon today

THE BLOCKBUSTER TUKAAN 5-COCK DERBY sizzles at 2 p.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with 125 matches on tap. Event at stake in the derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone is P2 million for an entry fee of P8,800. A Toyota Innova awaits the fastest winner. Host Rolly Ligon said two more days of 2-cock eliminations are scheduled on May 2 and 4. Qualifiers will dispute the championship on May 6. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

Ozamiz five makes it 4 straight

REIGNING CHAMPION OZAMIZ EXTENDED its winning streak to four by spanking Valencia, while Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila nipped Forward Taguig to move on top Thursday in the Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball tourney in separate venues.

Boyet Guerrero sparkled with 22 points as Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers toppled Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia Golden Harvest, 99-88, in Valencia City to improve its Southern division record to 4-0.

Over at the CP Tinga gym in Taguig City, the Manilans came from behind to subdue Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig squad, 71-68, and wrest the Northern division lead at 4-2.

Ozamiz remained the only unbeaten team in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

STANDINGS North Division	W	L
Bacchus/Harbour	4	2
Batang Tagaytay	3	1
Forward Taguig	3	2
Spring-P'ñaque	2	2
Pangasinan	1	3
Laguna-S. Rosa	0	5

STANDINGS South Division	W	L
Ozamiz	4	0
North Cotabato	5	3
Iligan	4	3
Pagadian	2	2
Valencia	2	3
Iloilo Warriors	1	3

The scores:

OZAMIZ 99—Guerrero 22, Bansil 19, Basco 16, Sampilo 12, Llangco 8, Cavan 6, Llanga 5, Cabigkis 5, Yabut 2, Delina 0, Caylan 0, Alvarado 0, Lapera 0.

VALENCIA 88—Cruz 14, Cabili 13, Berami 12, Cummings 10, Braga 9, Celiz 9, Navales 8, Clavel 4, Cesar 2, Taligatos 2, Adams 2, Arguero 0, Dumapig 0.

Quarters: 23-22, 53-50, 75-73, 99-88

BACCHUS/HARBOUR 71—Membrere 15, Buenafe 12, Jay Cuevas 11, Pribdhas 11, Sta. Cruz 9, Coyukang 7, Pile 3, Masbang 2, Hardin 1, Retaga 0, Jun Cuevas 0.

TAGUIG 68—Gragasin 12, Legaspi 11, Patrimonio 8, Constantino 8, Castro 8, Reguera 7, Abad 7, Dulay 5, Magsambol 2, Lapinid 0, Lustestica 0.

Quarters: 12-32, 33-47,52-57, 71-68

Dumandan topples Bayron via playoff

DUMANDAN

BAGUIO—MARvin Dumandan rallied from three strokes down, then bested Jay Bayron on the third playoff hole to snatch the crown in the first leg of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour at the Baguio Country Club course yesterday.

Dumandan, who matched par 61 to force the sudden death, birdied No. 8, the third playoff hole, to claim his second straight title after ruling the DHL-WWW Express tournament last month.

Dumandan flashed his resiliency as he crawled from five shots down after a 64 in the first round by shooting a 60 and two 61s for a 246.

Bayron, the overnight leader by three shots, struggled to a 64 (246).

Fernando Aunzo shot a 62 while Michael Bibat fired a 60 to share third at 248, while Dave Hernandez (62) and Mark Fernando (60) finished in joint with 251s. Paul Echavez (67), Joseph Labajo (66) and Jun Bernis (66) tied for seventh with 254s.

Tootsie de Jesus carded a 71-139, then nipped Rev Kang (65-139) in a playoff to top Class A. Ric Madayag and Cris Palanca tied for third.

Oscar Arenas shot a 74 for a 144 as he posted a three-shot win over Raul Zamora (74-147) in Class B.

Bad Boy & Co. rip San Mig All-Stars

By Calvin Cordova, *Cebu Daily News*

MANDAUE CITY—THE STARS OF YEARS PAST needed a lot of help from the future as the NBA Legends ripped apart the San Miguel Corp. All-Stars, 124-94, Thursday at the Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Complex.

In what was supposed to be a showdown between old-timers, the American selection leaned on the young guns of the NBA's developmental league (NBDL) after falling behind early to the Allan Caidic-led SMC all-stars, 10-20.

The crowd got what they wanted, though, from 6-foot-8 rebounding demon Dennis Rodman, who hauled down 18 boards.

The scores:

NBA LEGENDS 124—Famutimi 33, Allen 25, Wilkerson 18, Reid 13, English 11, Boddicker 10, Rodman 5, Dawkins 5, Murphy 4.

SMC ALL-STARS 94—Agustin 17, Caidic 17, Hizon 14, Espinosa 7, Martin 6, Bolado 6, Pacheco 6, Magtulis 5, Josa 4, Sta. Maria 4, Jarencio 3, Cordero 2, Loyzaga 2.

Quarters: 30-28, 67-51, 95-74, 124-94

Clark drag race today

ANOTHER ROUND OF QUARTERMILE DRAG RACE Championship Series will take place today at the Omni Aviation inside Clark Ecozone in Pampanga. Round 2 winners John Rizya Garage Power (Quick 8), Christian Ramirez—Team Cabspeed (PRO class), TJ Pangilinan—Team Cabspeed (Sportsman and Antares Francisco (Hotstreet) are expected to join. The event is organized by Roadwise Motoring Foundation. For inquiries, call or text Liza at 0916-3121050.

Super fight offered free; Pacquiao training in US

From page A25

14, and train for two weeks in Baguio City.

"When we made this fight we received angry phone calls from three sources—HBO, which lost the chance to ABS, and Wynn Hotel and MGM Grand, which lost the opportunity to Manila," said Khan.

At the same press conference, Larios maintained that he's extremely confident he could beat Pacquiao, considered by experts as the world's most exciting fighter today.

"I wanna be in superb condition and throw machine-gun punches," announced Larios. "My record speaks for itself. I'm gonna do it and that's it. And that's why I will beat him."

Larios' agent, Rafael Mendoza, shared the same observation, saying that his ward is better than both Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera.

"I believe Larios is better than Morales and Barrera, that's why he can beat Pacquiao," said Mendoza. "I believe he has the stamina and guts to face Pacquiao. Those are the things that Morales and Barrera didn't have."

After criticisms about prohibitive ticket prices, Pacquiao announced yesterday that all general admission tickets for the July 2 fight at the Araneta Coliseum will be given out free.

Pacquiao said he has conferred with ABS-CBN top honcho, Mr. Gabby Lopez, and it was agreed that general admission tickets, worth P2.5 million, will be given free to the fans.

Pacquiao did not explain the mechanics on how to avail of the free tickets. He said ABS-CBN will take care of the sensitive matter.

Pressed on his physical conditioning, Pacquiao vowed to be in peak form for Larios, adding he's now about 140 lbs, 10 lbs over the contract weight of the bout.

Pacquiao said shedding excess poundage was the least of his problems as all his time and energy will be focused on training to be at his best.

The other O'Neal shines

Jermaine powers Pacers; Bulls shackle Shaq, Heat

INDIANAPOLIS—JERMAINE O'Neal stayed out of foul trouble and the Indiana Pacers stayed ahead of the New Jersey Nets in their Eastern Conference quarterfinal with a well-deserved 107-95 win on Thursday.

Following the victory, the sixth seeded Pacers lead the best-of-seven series 2-1 with a chance to take complete control with a Game Four triumph at home on Saturday.

In other games, the Chicago Bulls upset second-seeded Miami, 109-90, to trim the Heat's series lead to 2-1, while the Denver Nuggets stopped the Los Angeles Clippers, 94-87, to also get to 2-1.

Avoiding the foul trouble that stifled him through much of the opening two games of the series, O'Neal broke loose to equal a playoffs career-high 37 points, while pulling down 15 rebounds and blocking four shots.

In Games One and Two, O'Neal scored 15 and 12 points respectively and played a total of 32 minutes combined.

Frustrated by the close attention he was receiving, O'Neal voiced his unhappiness in the officiating earlier on Thursday and was immediately fined $15,000 by the league.

A few hours later, an inspired O'Neal shrugged off the unwanted dent to his bank balance by making his first six shots.

Despite 19 points from O'Neal, the Pacers entered halftime trailing, 55-51, but continued to assert themselves in the second half and slowly took control, 78-70, going into the final quarter.

In Chicago, the Bulls used a smothering defense to hold Shaquille O'Neal to just eight points while Ben Gordon hit for 24 to prevent the home team from falling into a 3-0 hole.

The Bulls will have a chance to even the series when they host Game Four on Sunday.

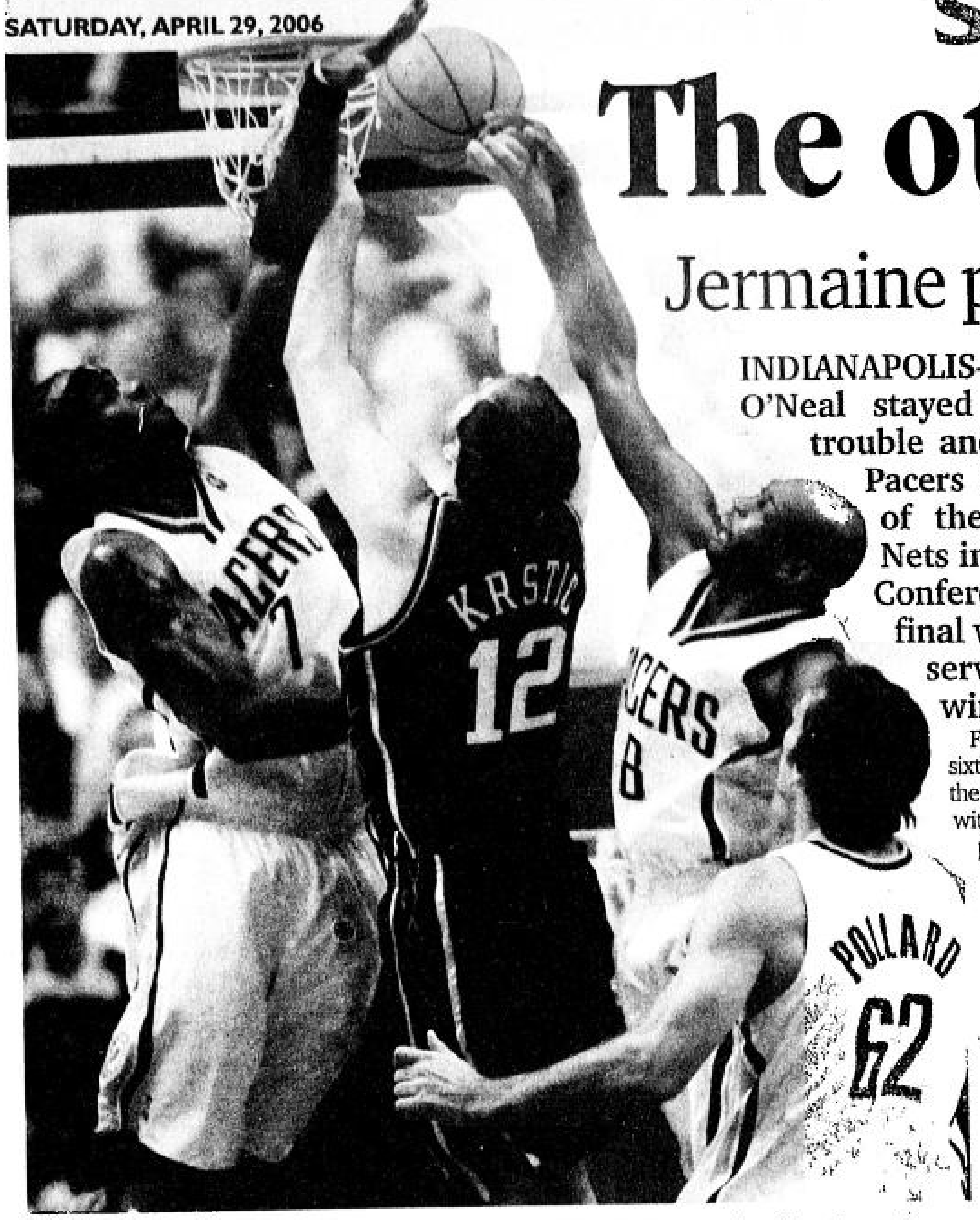
"We did what we had to do," Bulls coach Scott Skiles said. "We had to win this game. We played better, but they didn't play like they played in Miami. We know the odds, 95 percent of the time the team that is up 2-0 wins the series."

After averaging over 24 points in the opening two games of the series, O'Neal endured one of the most dismal playoff performances of his career, hitting just one basket through the first three quarters.

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored a game-high 24 points as the Nuggets beat the Los Angeles Clippers to earn a shot at leveling their best-of-seven series when they host Game Four on Saturday.

The Nuggets played the game without Kenyon Martin, who was suspended for conduct detrimental to the team, but the return home provided Denver with enough lift for the win. *Reuters*

NBA on SOLAR SPORTS—Cleveland vs Washington (8 a.m. live; 7 p.m. replay)



THE INDIANA Pacers' troika of Jermaine O'Neal (left), Anthony Johnson (second from right) and Scot Pollard make life diffi-cult for New Jersey center Nenad Krstic, who gets foiled on his way to the hoop. O'Neal, earlier fined for comments against officiating, put in a dominant performance as the Pacers took a 2-1 series lead in the playoffs. AP

Protest mars Nadal win

BARCELONA—TOP SEED RAFAEL NADAL shrugged off an interruption from a female spectator, who handcuffed herself to the net post, to reach the quarterfinals of the Barcelona Open on Thursday.

While third seed Guillermo Coria double-faulted his way out of the tournament and 2002 French Open champion Albert Costa bowed out of professional tennis, Nadal extended his winning streak on clay to 44 matches with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Spanish qualifier Ivan Navarro Pastor.

Nadal was more bothered by the intruder than his opponent.

The young girl, wearing a white mask and a T-shirt campaigning for Catalan independence, ran on to the court and handcuffed herself to the net post when Nadal was leading, 6-4, 4-0.

After a brief delay, the girl was led away and Nadal eased to victory and a quarterfinal against Finn Jarkko Nieminen. *Reuters*

NADAL AFP

With ailing mom in tow, a young girl gets her shot

REUNION, FLORIDA—KELLY JO DOWD didn't know whether to laugh or cry, so she did a little of both. With one swing of her 13-year-old daughter's driver, a mother's dream came true.

Dakoda Dowd opened play on Thursday with a birdie in the US LPGA's Ginn Open, doing so while her terminally ill mother looked on, surrounded by friends and family. Wearing a pink shirt and black skirt, the teen teed off and her first ball sailed down the left-center of the fairway. She finished the day with a 2-over 74.

DOWD AP

That was nine shots off the lead held by Christie Kerr at 65, a shot better than Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin, who fired a 75, and three shots ahead of the Philippines' Jennifer Rosales, who opened with a 77.

Kelly Jo Dowd is fighting cancer for the second time in four years. She was given a clean bill of health after doctors believed she beat breast cancer, but she learned last year that she has terminal bone and liver cancer—and, conceivably, only months to live.

"This is one of the best weeks of my life," Kelly Jo said on Thursday.

When Ginn officials learned Kelly Jo's wish was to see her daughter, who has won dozens of amateur tournaments, play against the LPGA's best, they made it possible with an exemption into the field.

Dakoda received a sponsor's exemption to play in the event near Orlando. She started on the 532-yard, par-5 10th hole.

She chewed on her right thumbnail for a few minutes before teeing off, then hugged her mother and leaned her head back in relief that the wait was, at long last, over.

"I'm excited," Dakoda said after walking off the practice green and signing a few autographs. "This has all been great."

Even with the likes of Annika Sorenstam, Lorena Ochoa, Natalie Gulbis, Paula Creamer and Morgan Pressel—some of the game's most popular players—in the field, some simply came to see Dowd.

"I don't know how she does it," Creamer said. "That's pretty remarkable."

Pressel understands that, on a number of levels. Not only does she know what it's like to be the kid among golf grown-ups but Pressel lost her mother to breast cancer in September 2003. *AP*

Spring pockets No. 6

DEFENDING CHAMPION SPRING COOKING OIL BESTED UP-Mighty Filter Kings, 77-66, and kept its unbeaten record in the 2006 PICAA Open basketball tournament Thursday night at the EAC gym in Manila. It was the sixth straight win of national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters. Led by veterans Mario Reyes and Marvin Yambao, Spring used a 28-12 run between the second and third quarters to pull away for good, 44-30. Homer's Cager shocked King's Bakeshop, 78-77, in the other game of the tourney supported by Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, Tomish Café (Dapitan) and Chloe Lightings. Marlon Yambao, Buboy Rodriguez and Noel Salazar combined for 43 points for Homer's. King's Steve Marucot had a chance to send the game into overtime when he was fouled while taking a 3-point shot. But he muffed one of his three tries to allow Homer's to level to 3-3.

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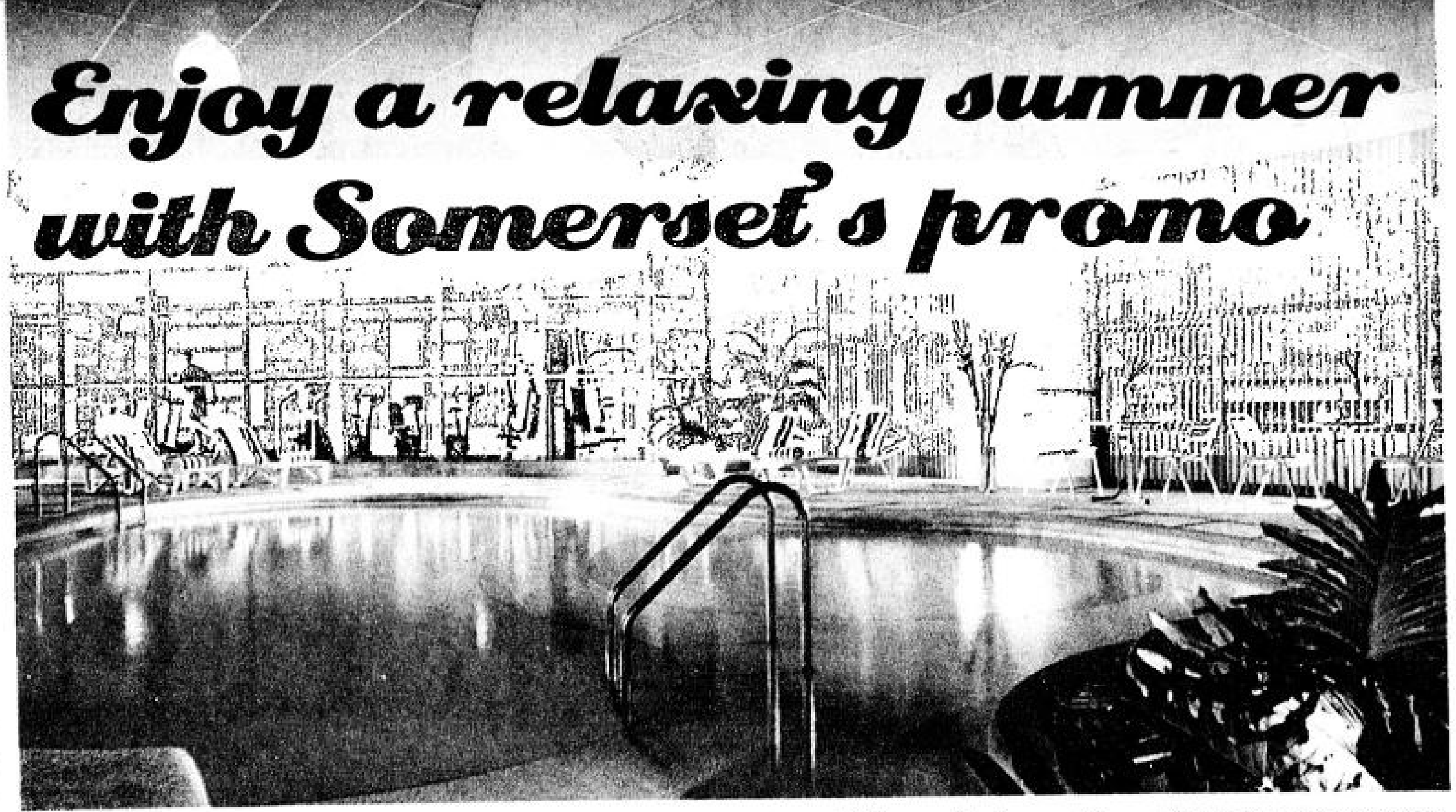
Enjoy a relaxing summer with Somerset's promo



THERE IS NOTHING LIKE SPENDING HOT summer days experiencing the signature comfort and stylish art of living that is distinctly Somerset.

This April, Somerset is delighted to present its Somerset Summer Promotion. With three properties in Makati to choose from, guests of Somerset Millennium, Somerset Olympia and Somerset Salcedo Makati may enjoy special discounted rates on their choice of serviced residence ranging from Studio to Two Bedroom units. With their stylish and contemporary units, premier leisure facilities and international standard of service, guests will surely enjoy a delightful summer break from the city buzz.

For more information and reservations on the Somerset Summer Promotion, contact their Central Sales Office at (63-2) 888 0531 or e-mail at enquiry.manila@the-ascott.com.

Somerset Serviced Residences, Philippines is a member of The Ascott Group - a leading international serviced residence company with over 15,000 serviced residences spanning 40 cities across 17 countries.

Tin Hau presents old style Cantonese cuisine

THE TIN HAU MASTER CHEFS OF MANdarin Oriental, Manila will delight Chinese food lovers and gourmands with the enticing cuisine of Old Style Cantonese on May 1 to 14.

Experience the fresh, natural flavours of Old Style Cantonese cooking which is a highlight of this Chinese regional cuisine, and is regarded as the best-known style of Chinese cooking worldwide. Ingredients purchased and prepared on the same day will be cooked just before serving and will be presented in a sumptuous a la carte menu, which will be available daily for lunch and dinner.

Cantonese cuisine originates from the region around Canton (Guangzhou) in southern China's Guangdong province and is well liked for employing cooking methods that enhance the ingredients' natural flavours. The freshest of ingredients are usually combined with the intense flavour of preserved, aged and dried ingredients for contrast in taste and texture. The use of very mild and simple spices are used to enhance taste. Hot spices like chili are rarely used. Dishes are most often considered bland, as compared to the usually thicker, richer, and darker sauces of other Chinese cuisine.

Some of the Cantonese dishes that will exalt food lovers include: Braised abalone with sea cucumber, duck feet and green vegetables; Oven-baked eel fillet with honey sauce; Stir-fried Mian Xian with slipper lobster; Charcoal-roasted honey pork coin with sesame seed; Braised bird's nest topped with bamboo pith stuffed with shrimp mousse; Braised fish lips, dried scallops and mushroom soup topped with quail egg; Imperial chicken; Baked pork spareribs with fermented bean curd; Assorted mushrooms wrapped in cabbage with dried scallop sauce; and, Double boiled sweetened papaya with white fungus and red date soup.

In addition, five new enticing set menus consisting of a minimum of six courses for a minimum of two to ten persons - Jasmine, Lotus, Emperor, Phoenix, and Mandarin, offer discerning palates an alternative option to the buffet lunch and dinner, which are available daily and range from P938+++ to P1,668+++ per person.

For enquiries and reservations, call Tin Hau at 750 8888 extension 2422/2424.

A RESTAURANT WORTH THE TRAVEL

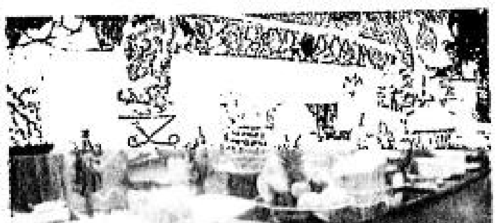
PALATO FINO WHICH TRANSLATES TO 'FINE PALATE', OPENED FOUR and half months ago. Behind the restaurant are two responsible passionate people: for the BOH (back of the house), the restaurant has a German chef who lived in Pasadena California for 10 years and was actually doing a hire-a-chef concept in private parties; for the FOH (front of the house), the one responsible would be Cristina Metelmann, whose job is to host and create a friendly ambience to complete your dining experience. The restaurant's target market are initially the A+B crowd and expatriates. It has a lot of regulars mainly expats and walk-ins that became regulars too like bankers and office people. Palato Fino's specialty is pasta. A crowd favorite is Penne Pancetta, an Italian preparation pasta with pancetta sauce. They have a selection of splendid salads and a very good seafood dish and Andalucian Spiced Pork (a must have on the table) to go with the salad. It can comfortably accommodate 38 people inside and 12 people outside, in the veranda. Palato Fino accepts private functions like conferences, weddings, private parties, and can be flexible to coordinate the theme of the party to the food to be served. It is located at 150 Jupiter Street Corner Saturn, Bel-Air 2, Makati City. For reservations, call 63-2-751-0431.

Palatofino

The longest buffet in Davao City

EVER HAD DIFFICULTIES PROnouncing names of some international cuisine? Kasekuchen Mit Murbteig? Some would say that it's such a long and complicated name simply just for a German cheese tart. Bauerruch, Khao Niaow Ma Muang, Saint-Honore Torte, etc... Some cuisines even sound as foreign to your palates as their names are to you.

Experience the easy way of learning and loving these names only at the longest buffet in Davao City: Acquaint your stomach with the different flavors of the world as The Marco Polo, Davao introduces "Around the World at Café Marco." Excite your appetite with an endless array of world's finest and most delectable dishes and succulent desserts from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and other continents all in one sitting. Learning and pronouncing foreign cuisine will never be as difficult as before once you get to taste them.



For inquiries and reservations, please contact (082) 221-0888 local 7222 or 7223. Promo runs from April 12 to May 30.

Waterfront's summer afternoon delight

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO (WCCHC) invites you to indulge in the season's hottest refresher: the all-Filipino, all-time favorite halo-halo. This indulgence is now available in an inimitable Halo-Halo Station propped up at the Lobby Lounge of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino for the whole summer month of April. For only P210, one gets to concoct and personalize his very own glass of halo-halo from a spread of colorful ingredients. Yes, including the velvety dollop that finishes it off: ice cream.

Though one is free to throw in a myriad of delicious ingredients in a tall halo-halo glass, here are the more popular and basic halo-halo elements: Shredded melon, macapuno, scooped star apple and cubed mango make the halo-halo a more exotic fare due to their seasonal availability; Beans such as black monggo and sweet garbanzos are added to the mix, squeezing in with broiled root crops such as diced or crushed camote and/or gabi; Colored gelatin (in bright green, red and yellow) made from agar-agar is reminiscent of colorful fiestas; to further sweeten the halo-halo, kaong and sago in syrup are used; saba bananas and jackfruit (langka) that are mollified in syrup can be used as flavor enhancers. Traditionally, a handful of ice entombs the ingredients, making halo-halo-eating a somewhat challenging yet fulfilling endeavor! About an inch of evaporated milk settles into your long glass. To crown the almost-ready concoction, roasted pinipig and ube, leche flan or corn is placed atop the crushed ice. Nowadays, a scoop of ube ice cream gives us a more sumptuous alternative. With all these ingredients in place, the halo-halo is complete, inviting, ready to be feasted on.

Grace your taste buds this summer, indulge in the perfect afternoon delight: create your own halo-halo dream at the Lobby Lounge of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino. Available for the whole month of April, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino is located at Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City, Philippines. For inquiries and reservations, contact (032) 232-6888; Conventions: Local 8044; Food and Beverage: 8200; 8201; Front Office: 8133. Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02) 687-0888. Visit the website at www.waterfronthotels.net.

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

NOW SHOWING

Thrilling triple threat

GERAGHTY (left) and Belle (above) in "When a Stranger Calls."

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Sentinel"

D: Clark Johnson
S: Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland, Kim Basinger

EXCITING shootout in "The Sentinel."

SECRET SERVICE AGENT Pete Garrison (Michael Douglas) is in a tight fix. When he uncovers an assassination plot on the life of U.S. President Ballentine (David Rasche), he suddenly finds himself shoved into the center of an intricate web of blackmail, deception and murder. He is forced to run for his life when he is framed for the murder of Secret Service agent, Charlie Merriweather (played by director Clark Johnson).

Meanwhile, Pete's bitter enemy, agent David Breckenridge (Kiefer Sutherland), is hot on his tail. They were best friends until David blamed the former for the break-up of his marriage. Now, Pete has to prove his innocence before it's too late. His only alibi: First Lady Sara Ballentine (Kim Basinger), with whom he's having an affair.

Director Johnson keeps his film's narrative flow swift and eventful, and spices up the scenic action and the story's whodunit tone with a first-rate cast: Sutherland hits his thespic stride despite a role that is not as well-threshed-out as Douglas'. For her part, Basinger manages to make the unfaithful wife sympathetic, while the hardworking Eva Longoria is miscast as a sexy-but-smart rookie investigator.

PIAGET in "The Nun."

While not entirely original in story and narrative scope, the film nevertheless delivers on thrills that are as engaging as they are predictable.

"The Nun" (La Monja)

D: Luis De La Madrid
S: Anita Briem, Manu Fullola, Cristina Piaget

Luis De La Madrid cooks up a different kind of ghoul in a horror film that fails to realize its promising premise. When stern, verbally abusive Sr. Ursula (Cristina Piaget) reminds her six teenage wards at a special boarding school for spoiled girls, "Sacrifice brings us closer to God," she has more than just sacrifice in mind.

Eighteen years after the nun's mysterious death, her shape-shifting, water-drenched spirit returns to seek vengeance and retribution—and the girls' dark secrets start to unravel.

Unfortunately, this film's attractive actors and interesting premise don't a good scary movie make.

"When a Stranger Calls"

D: Simon West
S: Camilla Belle, Tommy Flanagan, Lance Henriksen

This "Stranger," a thrill-free reworking of the 1979 original, is a clunker. As "atonement" for incurring 800 minutes more than her cell phone's credit ceiling, high school student Jill Johnson (Camilla Belle) has to pay the bill by babysitting for a rich couple, who lives in a secluded house by the lake.

What could be scarier—or more claustrophobic—than getting trapped in a huge house during a windy and stormy night? Jill soon finds out-when a stranger (Tommy Flanagan, but voiced by Lance Henriksen) starts calling her. She begins to freak out when she realizes that the strange, threatening calls come from inside the house! Who knew babysitting could be so hazardous to a teenage girl's health—and lungs?

Promising young talents impress viewers

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME PEOPLE KEEP COMplaining that we don't have many good actors left. Not true: we've seen many exciting new talents enter the field this year.

Some months ago, for instance, six child actors impressed audiences in Bing Pimentel's Martial Law musical, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," at Meralco Theater. The talented kids performed with experienced stars like Marco Sison, but they managed to hold their own.

The young performers played the children of Senator Nene Pimentel and and his wife Bing. The roles were difficult to essay because they had to react to daunting challenges and stresses, especially when Pimentel was incarcerated four times during the Martial Law period.

Thus, the Pimentel children had to grow up in dire straits as the family's finances were severely limited.

Characters

Despite their being very young, the six child actors understood what their characters were going through, and came up with sensitive and felt portrayals. They served notice that they were in the performing arts to stay:

Elijah Castillo is still an adolescent, but he has already chalked up performances in other stage musicals like "Himala" and "Birhen ng Caysasay." A sensitive actor, his biggest assignment to date has been the title role in Doy del Mundo's digital feature, "Pepot Artista."

Roychelle Torre is only 11 years old, but she has one of the best new singing voices around, and a great future is predicted for her in the field of music and musical theater.

Michelle Marie R. Vito

PROMISING/ A2-4

GELE. Sensitive.

TORRE. Versatile.

VITO. Lovely.

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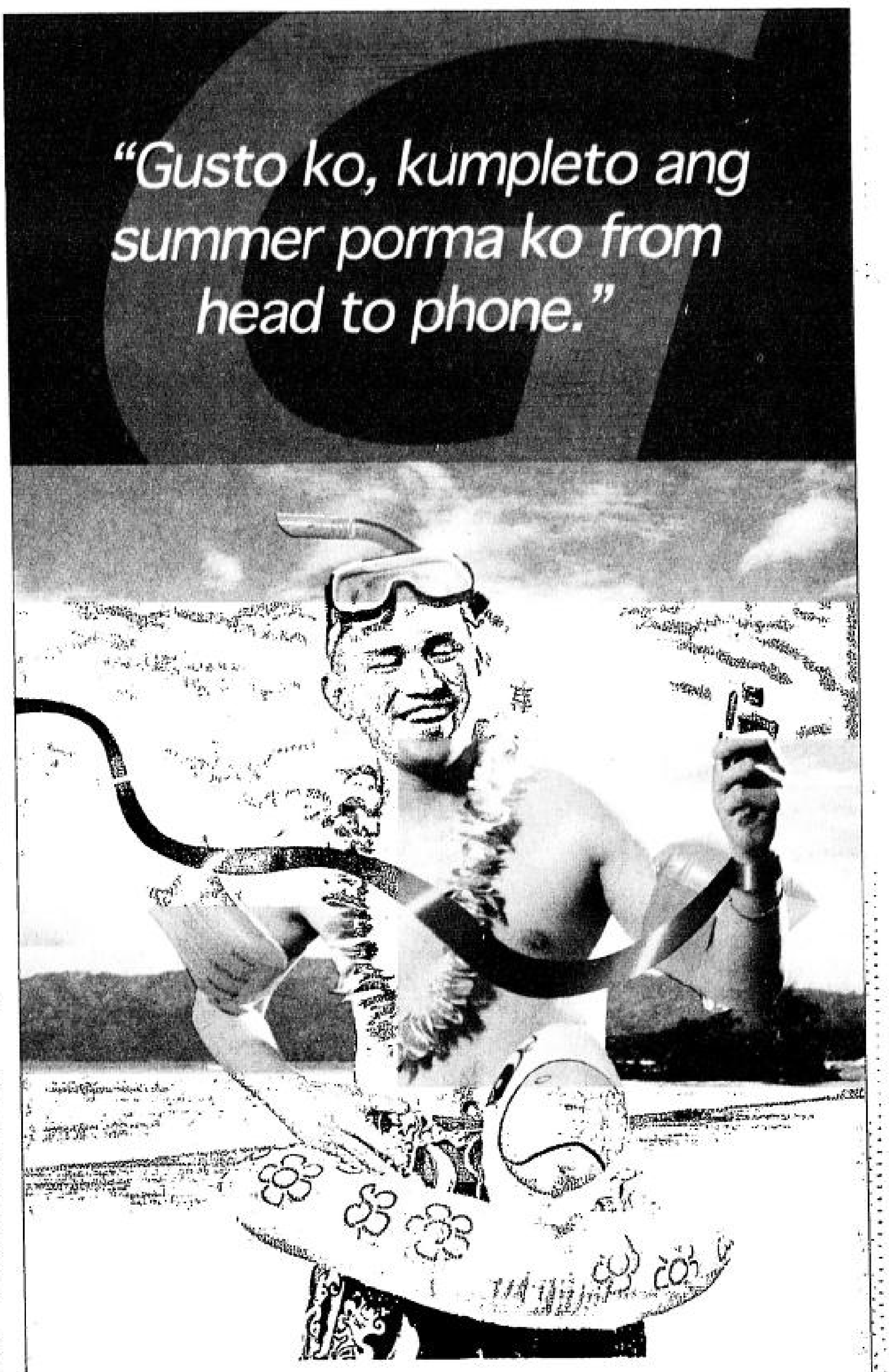

"Gusto ko, kumpleto ang summer porma ko from head to phone."

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sumrnite	cold summer night	francis m
walksun	walking on the sun	smash mouth

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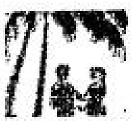

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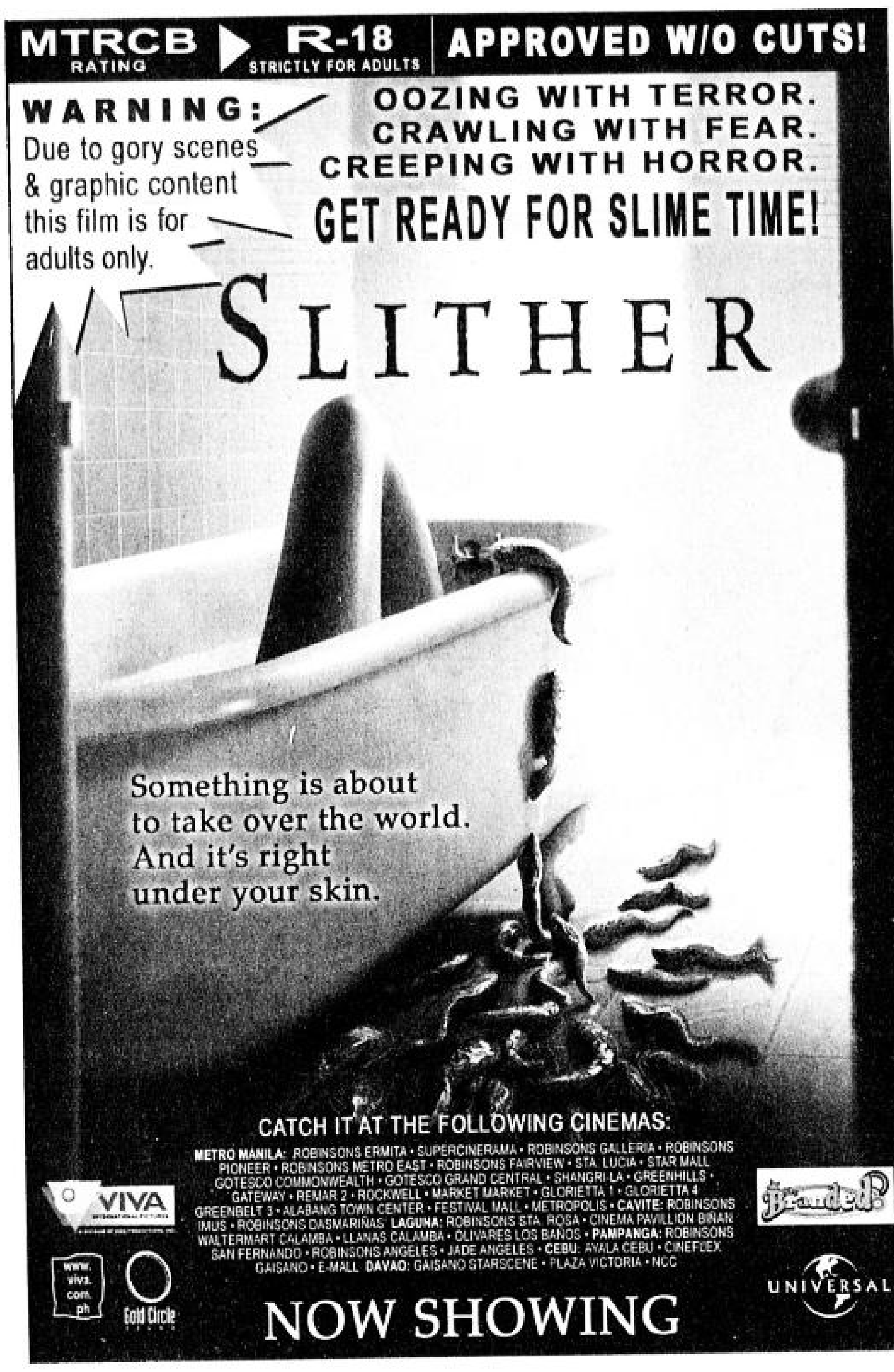
siyempre, ang lakas mo sa Globe


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 STRICTLY FOR ADULTS
APPROVED W/O CUTS!
WARNING: Due to gory scenes & graphic content this film is for adults only.
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Mother's Day specials on Hallmark

MONTAGE

TWO HEARTFELT movies about self-discovery, family and forgiveness are the Hallmark Channel's Mother's Day specials next month:

On May 7 at 9 p.m., "Back to You and Me" stars Lisa Hartman as a career-driven doctor who's forced to take stock of her life when an elderly cancer patient urges her to attend her 20th high school reunion.

She is shocked to discover that her mother (Rue McClanahan) has turned their home into a bed-and-breakfast, and that she still loves her childhood sweetheart (Dale Midkiff), now a widower and father of an invalid six-year-old son.

These discoveries prompt her to confront her past and present, make amends, and discover her family's troubling secret.

SMITH. Plays a judge in "Ordinary Miracles."

And, on May 14 at 9 p.m., "Ordinary Miracles" tells a tender, emotionally rich story of personal growth, family betrayal and renewal.

Jaclyn Smith plays a judge who, despite her personal crises, accepts temporary custody of a troubled teenager (Lyndsy Fonseca). Secrets of the teen's difficult past are revealed, and the two women eventually bond as they both find a new sense of identity and worth.

Big Preview: 'Mission: Impossible III'

Catch a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the year's most anticipated summer blockbuster, "Mission: Impossible III," starring Tom Cruise, at 8 p.m. on April 30 on HBO, and get a chance to win an all-expenses-paid trip for two to attend the film's gala premiere in Tokyo. Log on to *http://www.hboasia.com/mi3*.

Putomayo

At 4 p.m. today at Shangri-La Plaza's Grand Atrium, Gymboree provides sample play classes for little kids using custom-made materials from Putomayo's award-winning children's line. At 5 p.m., bossa nova tunes abound from MP

MOTHER'S/ A3

SHANG CINEPLEX

① THE WILD
MTRCB GP
1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00 LMF

② THE SENTINEL
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

③ WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
MTRCB PG-13
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

④ SILENT HILL
MTRCB R-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
SLITHER
MTRCB R-18 12:20, 2:45, 10:00

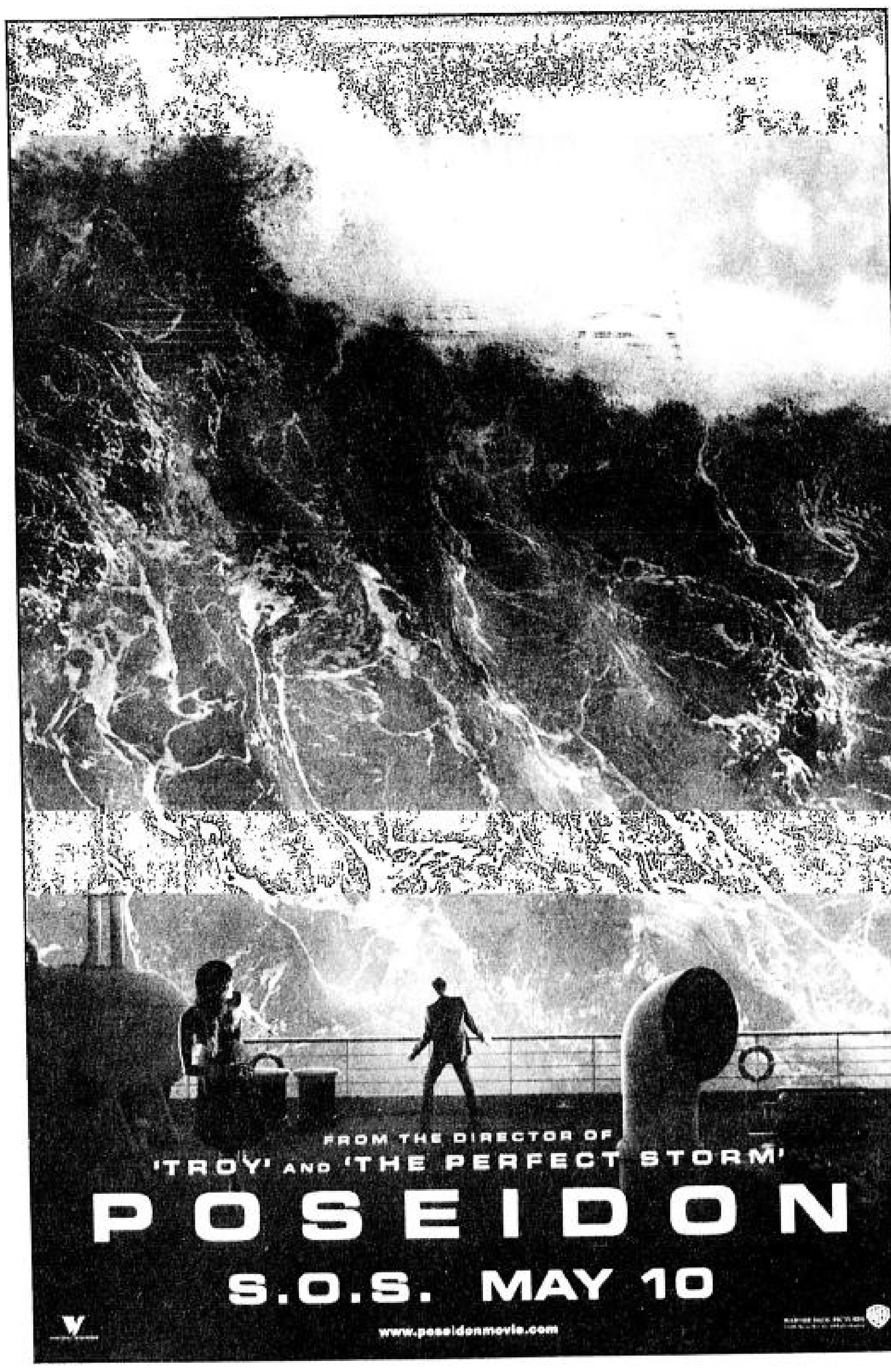
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

Catch the Cineplex Special

You can get your movie tickets now
for "Mission Impossible III"
Showing on May 3, 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza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Promo Period: May 1-31, 2006

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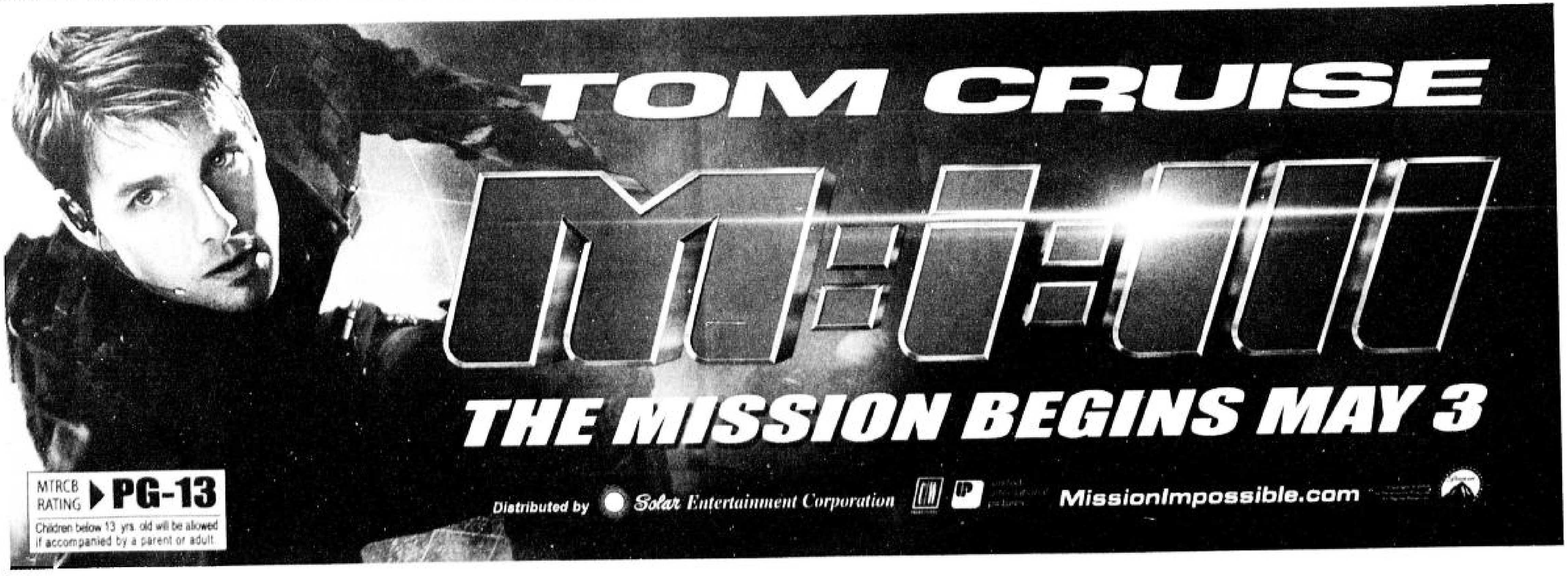
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2047, Series of 2006.


TOM CRUISE
M:i:III
THE MISSION BEGINS MAY 3
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
MissionImpossible.com

Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

THE BAUTISTAS. Have come full circle.

Success story

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

GUILLERMO Bautista and Agnes delos Santos were 18 and 16 years old, respectively, when they fell in love in their hometown of Amadeo, Cavite.

Agnes was a 2nd year high school student when they got married. After her third son was born, she went back to school, and got a BS Education in Home Economics degree.

Meanwhile Guillermo worked on a Norwegian ship as an engine boy. After four years at sea, he put up Dart Restaurant in Paco while operating a jeepney. Mrs. Bautista taught Home Economics.

Baker

They decided to migrate to the USA. Guillermo found a job as a baker and, for seven years, assisted a French baker in South Hampton, New York. When the Frenchman relocated, he sold the bakery to Guillermo. By 1988, Juno's Hampton Bakery had an impressive showroom; retailing French and German pastries.

Now, their sons have well-paying jobs; Riel is a physical therapist at South Hampton, Jason, 41, is a nurse at Brook Haven Hospital, and Michael, 36, manages the bakery.

Most of the time, Guillermo and Agnes are in Salaban, Amadeo, Cavite, in their farm planted to coffee, and live in Bgy. Habay, Bacoor everytime they are on vacation in the Philippines.

***

Mandy Navasero's Batanes Photo Safari II is set for May 21 to 24. Batanes is the perfect destination for photographers and nature lovers! Call 8991767, 8963208 or 0916-7060130, or email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.

Basic Photography features Prof. Eric Torres as lecturer on Art Appreciation at 1 p.m. today at my studio.

Mother's...

From page A2-2

Strings and reggae group Peacepipe. Call 372-9845.

'Gameplan'

At 1:30 p.m. on April 30 on Studio 23, "Gameplan" spotlights its new segment, "Cheap Thrills," which gives tips on cool places and activities you can enjoy for not more than P500. New hosts are Paolo Soler and Wowie Meloto.

'The Park'

On Star Chinese Movies at 12:45 p.m. today, "The Park," directed by Andrew Lau, is about seven friends who explore the mystery of an abandoned Bangkok park.

'Johnson Family Vacation'

On Star Movies at 9 p.m. on April 30, the film on view is "Johnson Family Vacation," a breezy comedy about a family of oddballs.

'Makuha Ka sa Tikim'

At 11 a.m. today on Channel 2, "Lutong Sikat, Lutong Divang-Diva" on "Makuha Ka sa Tikim" has cooking divas whipping up celebrities' favorite meals using their secret weapon, Knorr. Eugene Domingo, Eula Valdes and Cherry Pie Picache host "MKST."

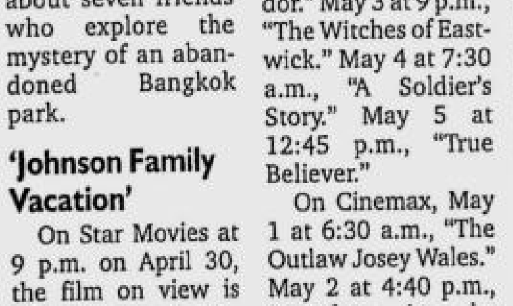
Winston Summer Music Blast

The Winston Summer Music Blast tour hits Cocomangas-Boracay tonight, with performances by Freestyle and True Faith.

Movies on TV

On HBO, May 1 at 5:15 p.m., "Radio." 10:40 p.m., "Shrek 2." May 2 at 10 p.m., "American Splendor." May 3 at 9 p.m., "The Witches of Eastwick." May 4 at 7:30 a.m., "A Soldier's Story." May 5 at 12:45 p.m., "True Believer."

On Cinemax, May 1 at 6:30 a.m., "The Outlaw Josey Wales." May 2 at 4:40 p.m., "Barefoot in the Park." 8 p.m., "Bean." May 3 at 8 a.m., "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." 11:45 a.m. "Pleasantville." May 4 at 1:15 p.m., "The Guns of Navarone." May 5 at 6:30 a.m. "Indiscreet." 3:20 a.m., "High Noon."



CRUISE. Stars in "Mission: Impossible III."

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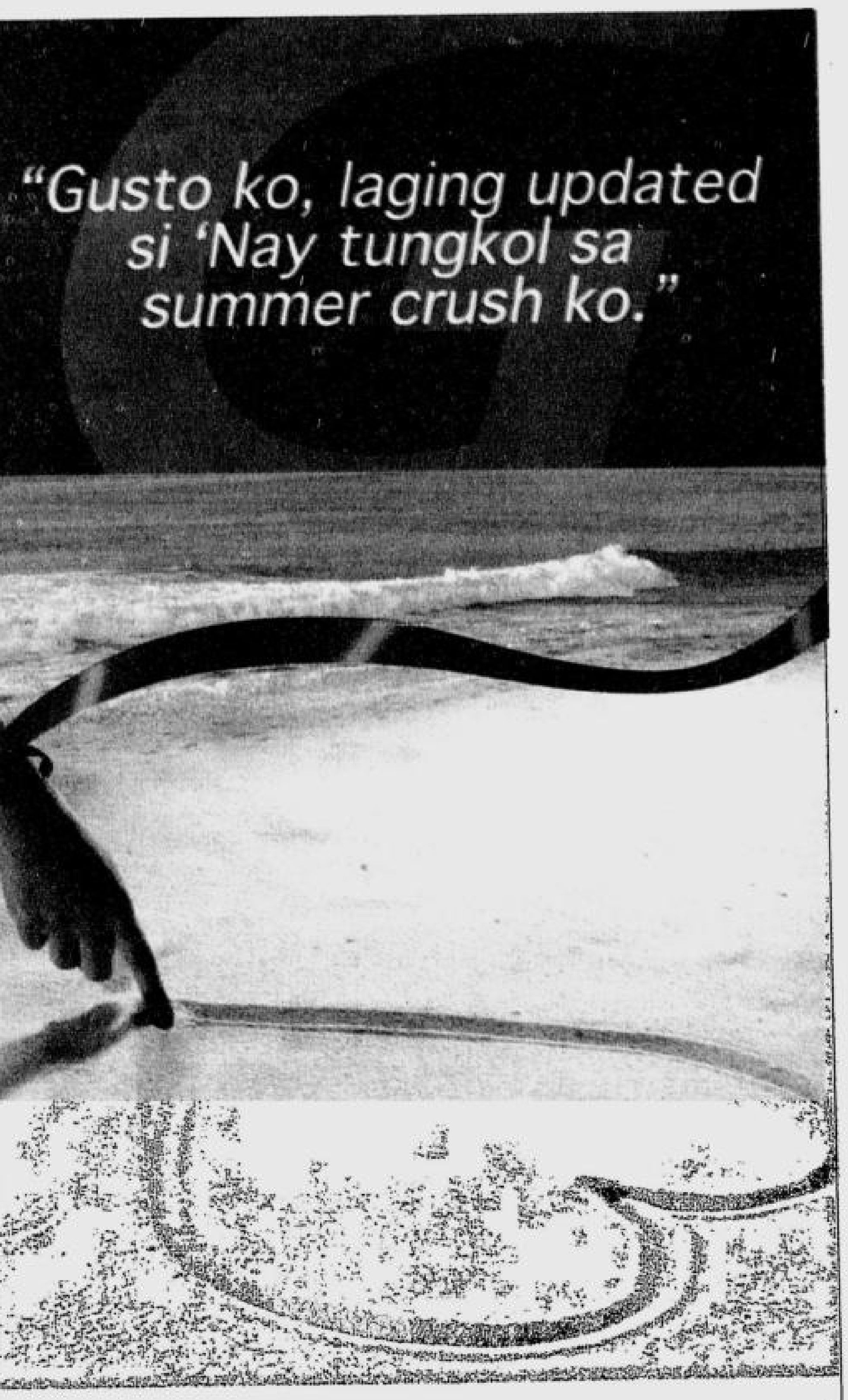

"Gusto ko, laging updated si 'Nay tungkol sa summer crush ko."

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Promo is extended until May 15, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1293, Series of 2006.

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text UNLIMITXT to 2870 for FREE.

siyempre, ang lakas mo sa Globe

Promising young talents...

From page A2-1

has been featured in many commercials and is also a young ramp model. With her combination of looks and talent, she's bound to make it as a young star.

Natural approach

Angelica Jimenez-Gele is also very promising. Her forte is sensitivity in performance, a natural approach to acting that quickly elicits the audience's empathy.

Only seven years old, Albert John Reyes is a precocious charmer who's done more than his share of commercials. He's also good in his studies, and his natural intelligence infuses his performances with poise and insight.

Formidable

Also seven years old, versatile Mica Torre is a formidable singer-actor who's starred in musicals like "Birhen ng Caysasay" and was a finalist in Channel 2's "Little Big Star" kiddie singing tilt. She's also a featured player in ABS-CBN's new soap, "Bituing Walang Ningning," and plays an important role in the 2006 Cinemalaya entry, "Saan Nagtatago si Happiness."

REYES. Charmer.

To contact these child talents for future productions, call Andy at 780-9210 or 0919-206-5424.

Make mine Ilocos empanada

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

PROVINCIAL SPEcialties score big when brought to the Metropolis. Aling Lucing's *sisig* of Pampanga is a staple in most Pinoy restaurants, *lechon manok*, Bacolod's *inasal*, and Vigan's *longganiza* are also a hit here. Now, there's Ilocos Norte's Tacos ti Amianan, or empanada.

Specialty

I first came across this provincial specialty in Laoag and Batac, Ilocos Norte. It was so interesting to watch the assembly of this strange snack.

The cook rolls out a mass of orange dough then stuffs it with a mixture of cooked mongo and green papaya, and toasted and shredded Laoag or Batac *longganisang hubad*. All this is topped with a raw egg, sealed on each side using a *platito*, then deep-fried to a crunch.

Spices

While it's still hot, bite into it! Pour some spicy Ilocos Norte *suka* loaded with an assortment of spices on it—and hum away!

A new stall called Taco Ilocano opened at Market! Market! at the Fort just a few months back. The maker is a direct import from the province of Ilocos Norte.

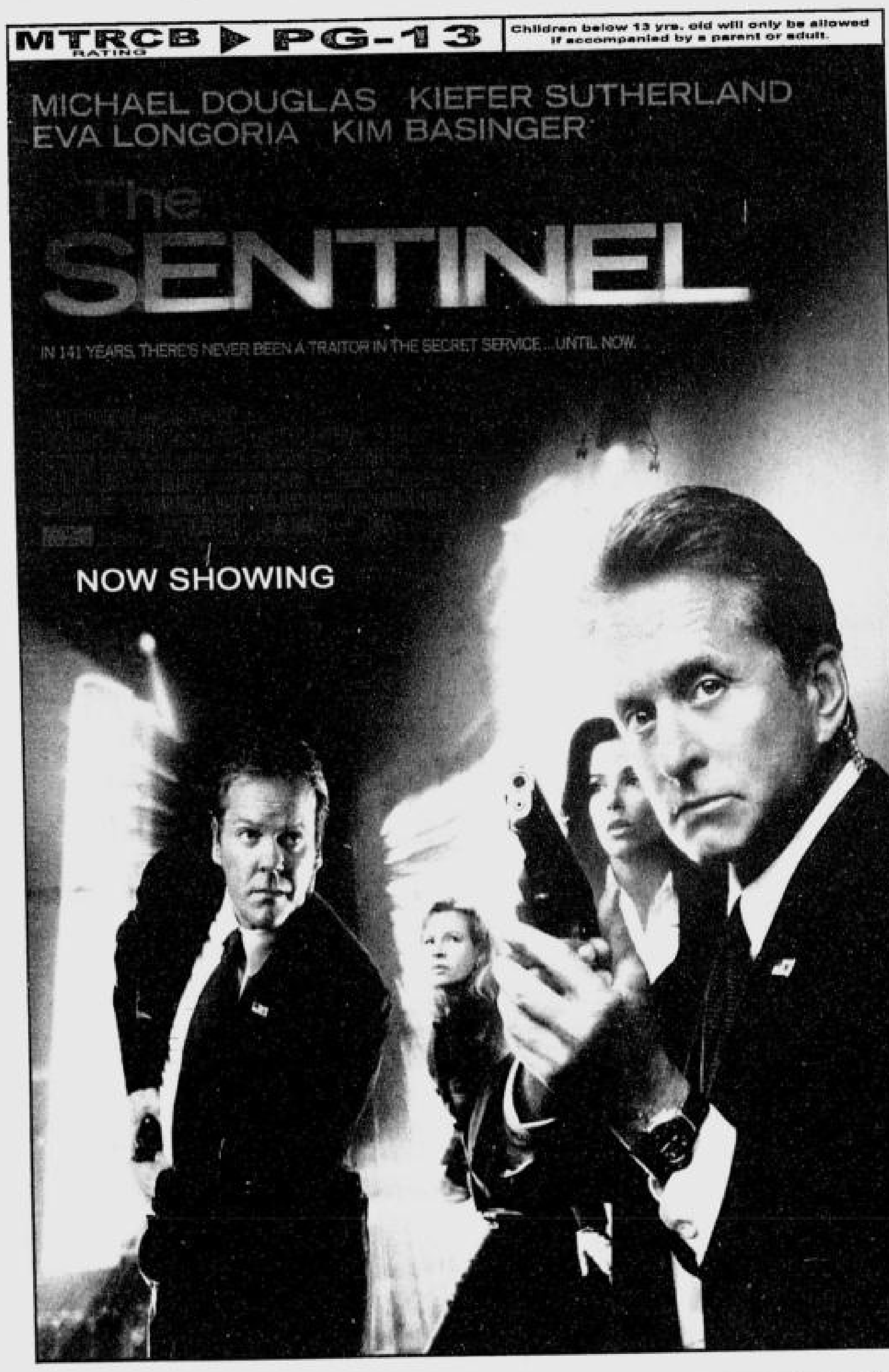
Show

Watching the assembly is a show in itself. If you want a unique, inexpensive yet delicious discovery, check this place out.

Taco Ilocano is open all day, 7 days a week.

Happy eating!

Send comments to sandydaza@shaw.ca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NOW SHOWING

The butterfly within

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW DOES ONE break free from material entanglements like anxieties, fear, loneliness, depression, pain and sufferings? Our spiritual teacher Jagad Guru Siddhaswarupananda Paramahamsa, gave this talk on the process and we are sharing it with you:

As the butterfly body develops in a cocoon, the cover outside becomes thinner, to the point that you can see through it. When the butterfly is ready to fly, the covering is as thin as rice paper, so it is easy to break. Material entanglement is like this cocoon which is very thick and wide in the beginning. It seems formidable and strong, like a solid wall.

Purification

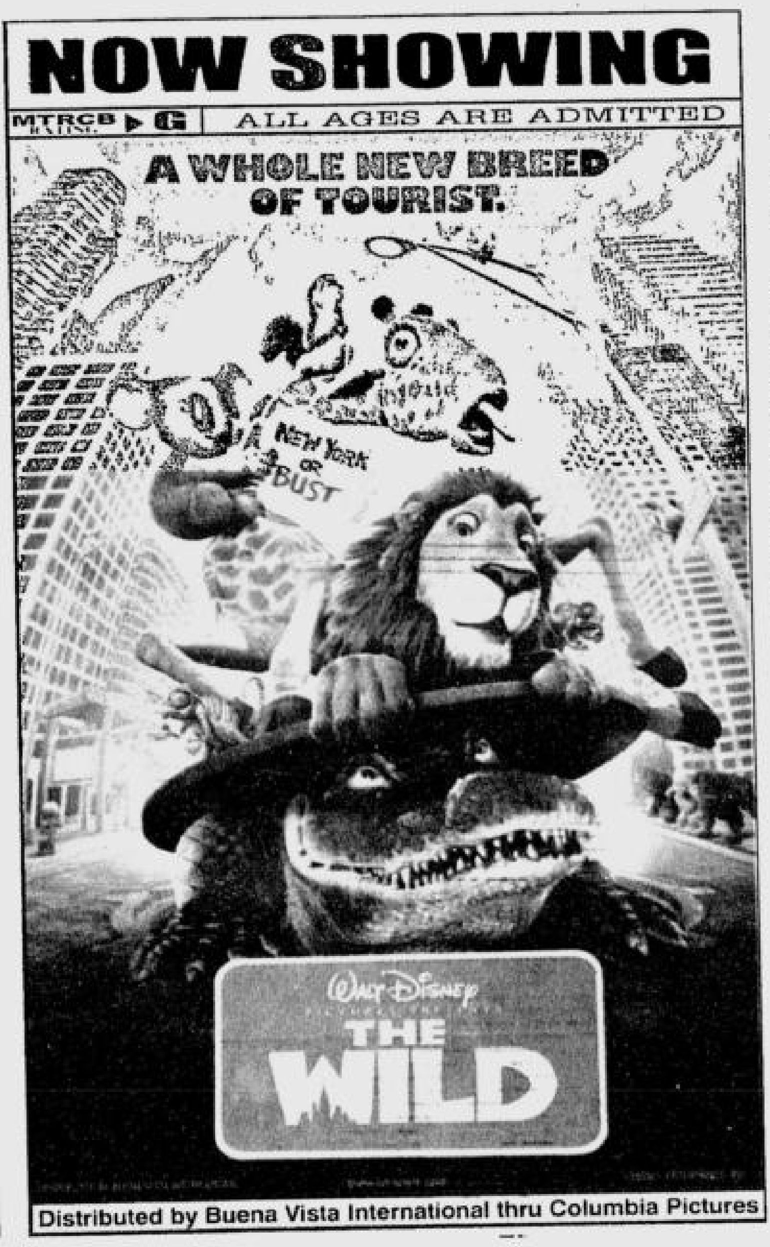
But if a person is hearing and chanting the names of the Supreme Being, the cocoon gets thinner. The effect is called purification. Elements which encase the living entity (ignorance, illusion and material desire) begin to dry up. Things you considered overwhelming, stronger and bigger than you begin to shrink.

Initially, when a person is encased, it is dark inside. But as the casing gets thinner, the light of the spiritual world comes to you. You begin to realize that the material world is temporary and passing. You understand that the spiritual world is the real world, and that this material world is cracking just like Japanese rice paper breaks away.

Insignificant

All of the things you think are important and formidable, such as possessions, reputation, and even death, now seem insignificant. The butterfly's wings push out of the cocoon just as material nature is pushed aside as insignificant by the realized soul. That is the power of the Names of the Supreme Being which thin out the wall that separates us from the spiritual world.

So, accept the Names of God into your life, and success and freedom will be yours.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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sayaw.
Drama.
Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		OHA		Ripley's Believe It or Not		ABCinema			
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Little Big Star		Komiks			Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Worst Case Scenario		WRC 2006: Rally XS	E Buzz	The World's Most Shocking Moments Caught On Tape		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Lost (Season II)		Trapped			
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Pet Alien	Tom & Jerry Show	Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island	Camp Lazlo	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		The Good, The Bad & Huckleberry Hound				The Simpsons		Battle B-Daman	The Gransazers	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinema One	Back To The Secret Garden				Super B				My Movie				Epimaco Velasco				Nasaan Ka Man		
Cinemax			Dark Sides: The Awakening			The Adventures Of Brisco County Jr.			Music River (6:45PM)					Secret Window			Devour (10:35PM)		
CNN		World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Revealed	World News	World Sport	World News	CNN Business Traveller	CNN Presents		Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense	Forensic Files	Bones		Profiler		North Mission Road	Body Of Evidence	Crossing Jordan		Surface		Bones		Prison Break		Exit Wounds			
Discovery Channel				Unsolved History		Power Zone				Blueprint For Disaster		The FBI Files		Crime Stories		World's Strangest UFO Stories		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies-Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ETC		Joan Of Arcadia		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C. 2		Beauty & The Geek		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Blowout 2		Inside the Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel		Mcleod's Daughters IV (3:15PM)		Almost Salinas (4:05PM)			Dummy (5:40 PM)				Mike Bassett: England Manager			Winter Solstice			Winter Solstice (10:35PM)		
HBO	Rome Ep 12: Kalends Of February		Patch Adams				The Mambo Kings				13 Going On 30 (7:20 PM)			Miss Congeniality 2: Armed And Fabulous				Deadwood 10: E.B. Was Left Out (10:55PM)	
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Ducky the Incredible	Jester The Adventurer	Musume!	The X-Treme Team	Love Hina	Fruits Basket	Lost Universe	Hero TV Theatrix	Babel II	II OVA	Captain Kuppa	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Peacekeeper	Auto Review	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics	Banzai	Bitag					
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	Chest	Filter	Bottomline		Raw				Distraction	Margo	Mad TV		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Food Fight	Data Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America				Isaac		E! Extra Celebrity Adventures		NY Fashion Week
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	Fallout Boy MAV: Dance Dance	Bling	VH1 Presents: 50 Greatest Women of the Video Era				Boiling Points		Wildboyz		06 MAA Voting Party	MTV 2 Bill: Yellow Card	MTV Hits		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic		Rough Trade	Rough Trade	No Borders			Sea Bears Of The Diamond Coast	Dangerous Encounters		Built For The Kill		The Living Edens: African Untamed Wilderness		Hornets, A Sting in the Tale		Hornets, Hornets from Hell		No Borders	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour (Replay)		Isla Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Ang Mala Kong Hoodlum				Tubusin Mo Ng Buhay				Ang Probinsyano				Epifanio Ang Bilis Ko Ni Eye				Night Of The Champions
Qtv		Twelve Kingdoms		Kaleido Star		Candies		Fans Kita		Aytil Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Global Window		Biyaheng Langit	Global Window	Man & Machine		Global Window		Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				Christian Bautista	
SBN 21								Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepards Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports				WTA Indian Wells '06 Finals					GWS 17-2006	2006 NBA Playoffs					Superfights: Hopkins vs. Taylor				
Sports Plus			Verizon Heritage Classic Highlights		Golf Today			Ray Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge				Ultimate Fighting Championship				Shell Houston Open Highlights		Zurich Classic of New Orleans Day 1	
Star Movies			Money Train (3:40 PM)				Out Of Time				If Only (7:20 PM)			Never Say Never Again				Diamonds Are Forever	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Wild Card		Less Than Perfect	The Drew Carey Show	Race To The Altar		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters/World's Most Amazing Video's		Enterprise		The Simpsons	Less Than Perfect
Studio 23								Sports TV	Nginig	TBA		Survivor Panama: Exile Island		Studio 23 Presents					

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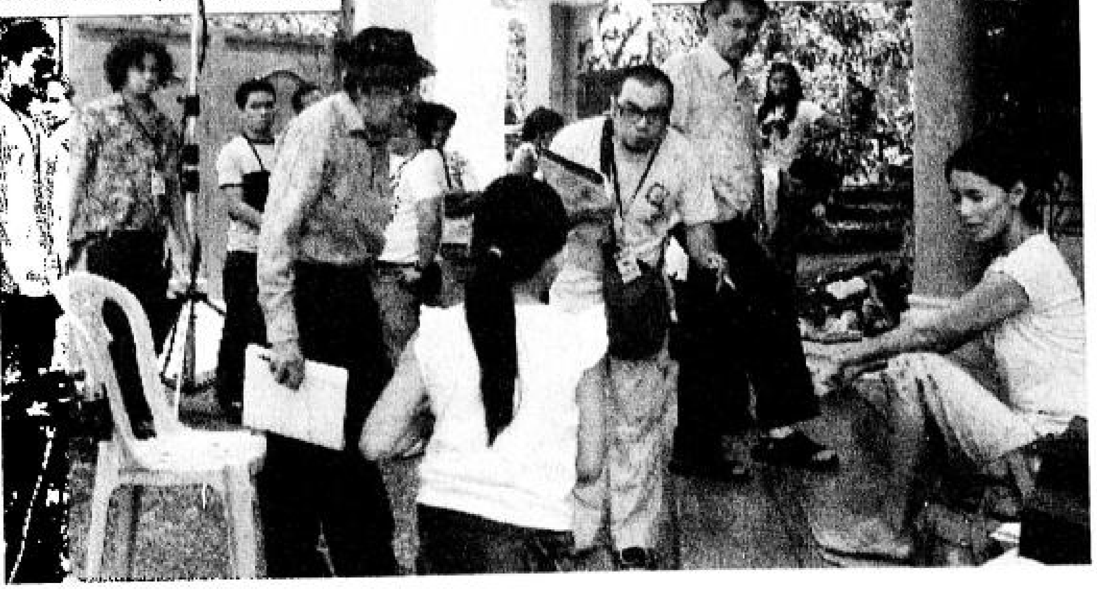

ROMERO, third from left, puts his cast and crew through their paces.

Eddie Romero shouts 'Action!' again at 81

By Rica Arevalo

NATIONAL ARTIST EDDIE Romero, 81, is at it again, directing his first digital film, "Faces of Love" (formerly "Nasaan ang Pag-ibig?"). I visited his set at Tierra Pura, Commonwealth Q.C. on the production's first shooting day last April 24. Romero, well-dressed in long sleeves and formal pants, was a standout. He was wearing a hat and holding a director's viewfinder.

One can see his joy as he directs his actors, Christopher de Leon, Angel Aquino, Juliana Palermo, Chanda Romero and Chinggoy Alonzo. Other members of the cast are Alfred Vargas and Ricky Davao.

Collaboration

It is the 30th anniversary of the team-up of De Leon and Romero. Their collaboration started in 1976 during "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kami Ngayon?" followed by "Aguila" (1979) and "Kamakalawa" (1981). While the crew sets up the lights, De Leon reminisces about his eating experiences with Romero. He playfully says, "Direk, *nami-miss ko na yung kainan natin kasama ang buong grupo.*"

On the set, Romero is playful and always smiling. While taking a rest, his assistant director, Paolo Villaluna, teases him to smile for a picture and in jest asks for the director's next 100 shots per sequence. Romero blurts out, "Don't bother me, I'm thinking." And everyone cracks up.

Cinematographer Jun Aves says, "There is no tension on the set. I am amazed that, at his age, he is still sharp, meticulous, and notices all the details."

When Romero shouts, "Action!" one can feel his grace and authority. He reads the script to the actors, sometimes asking for their comments.

In one scene, Romero's humor is at work: De Leon, who plays Arcadio, tells his niece Skip, played by Juliana Palermo, "*Baliw lang ang magpapakasal sa 'yo.*" And she answers, "*O, bigay mo sa kanya* number *ko*," and playfully

EDDIE/ A3-3

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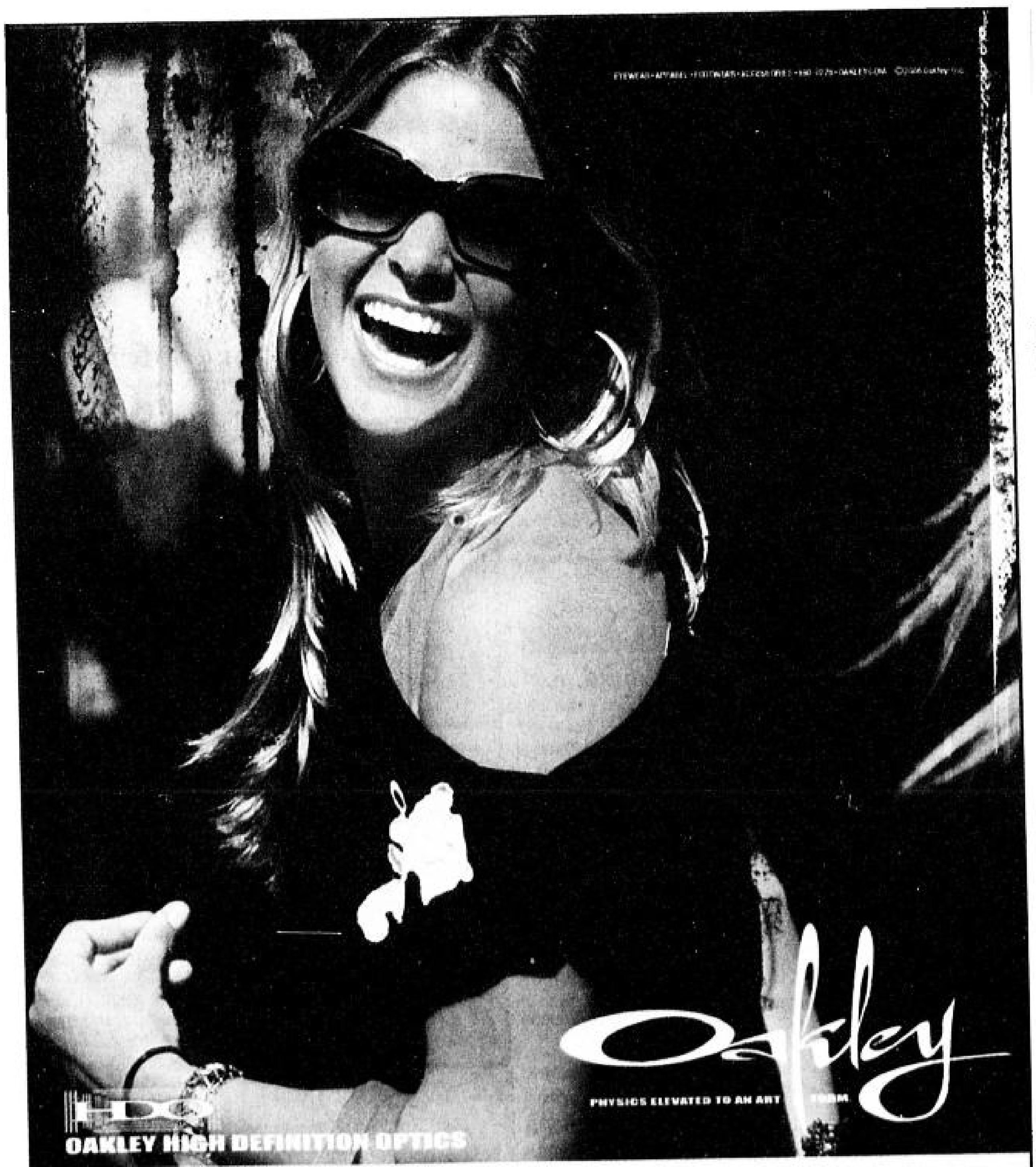
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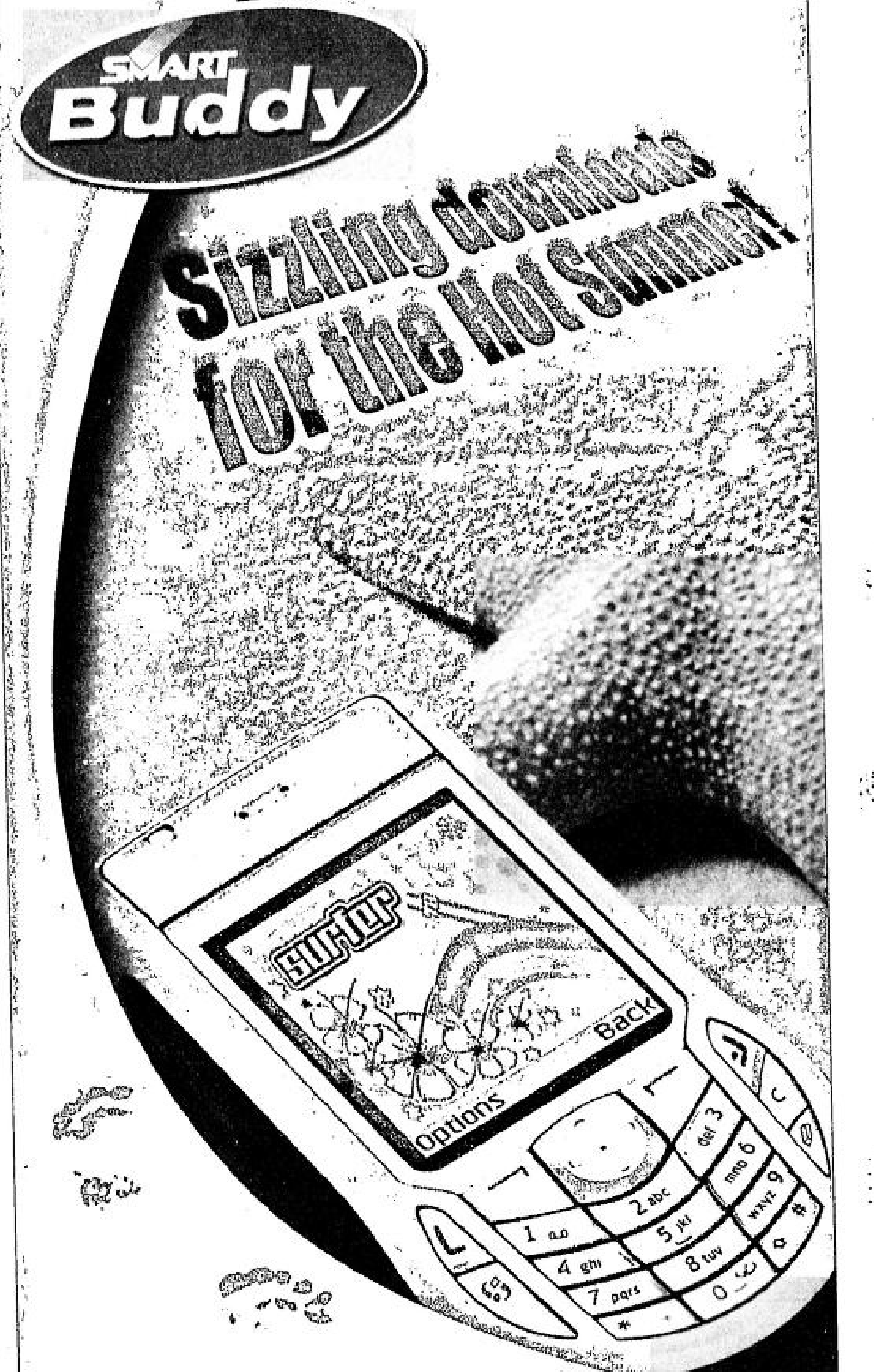
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Island Joe	No Regrets	NOREGRETS	Peace Pipe	Get High With Me	GETHIGH

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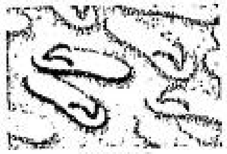
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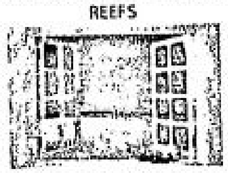
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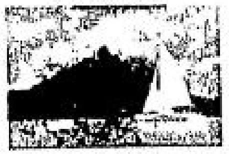
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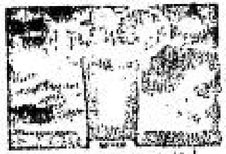
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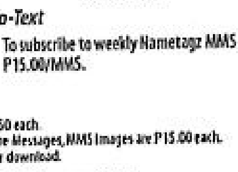
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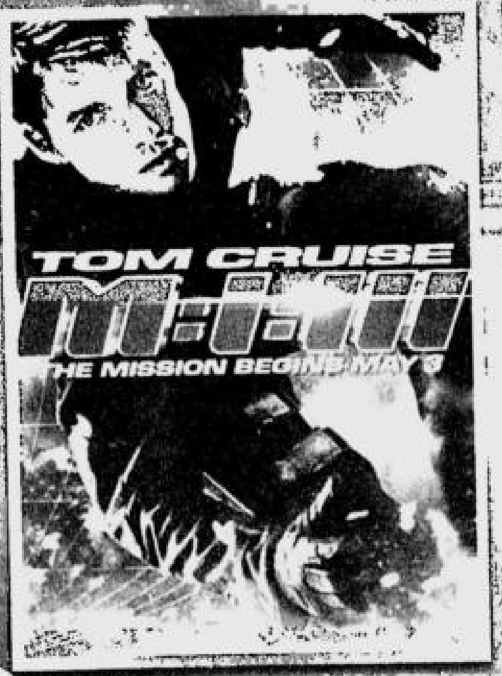

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CINEMA 1 SENTINEL
CINEMA 2 THE WILD

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1 SENTINEL
2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 SILENT HILL
4 RESERVED
5 EIGHT BELOW
6 THE WILD
7 SUBMERGED
8 ICE AGE 2
9 PAMAHIIN
10 D LUCKY ONES
11 MOMENTS OF LOVE
12 TRISTAN & ISOLDE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 SENTINEL
2 ICE AGE 2
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4 SILENT HILL
5 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
6 EIGHT BELOW
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8 THE WILD

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 PAMAHIIN
2 THE WILD
3 SENTINEL
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 SILENT HILL
5 PAMAHIIN
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
7 SENTINEL
8 THE WILD
9 ICE AGE 2
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 SUBMERGED
12 VENOM

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 SILENT HILL
2 THE WILD
3 SENTINEL
4 PAMAHIIN
5 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
6 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
7 EIGHT BELOWD
8 SUBMERGED
9 D LUCKY ONES
10 ICE AGE 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 SENTINEL
2 THE WILD
3 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
4 SILENT HILL

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 SILENT HILL
2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 THE WILD
4 SENTINEL
5 D LUCKY ONES
6 PAMAHIIN

SM CITY MANILA
1 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
2 SUBMERGED
3 VENOM
4 EIGHT BELOW
5 THE WILD
6 SENTINEL
7 PAMAHIIN
8 ICE AGE 2
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 TRISTAN & ISOLDE
11 D LUCKY ONES
12 SILENT HILL

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 SENTINEL
2 THE WILD
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 SILENT HILL
5 ICE AGE 2
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
7 EIGHT BELOW
8 PAMAHIIN
9 SUBMERGED

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 SILENT HILL
2 SENTINEL
3 THE WILD
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY SUCAT
1 THE WILD
2 PAMAHIIN
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 SILENT HILL

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1 SENTINEL
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
4 THE WILD

SM CITY MARILAO
1 BANDIDAS
2 PAMAHIIN
3 D LUCKY ONES
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 D LUCKY ONES
3 PAMAHIIN
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
2 SENTINEL
3 SILENT HILL
4 SUBMERGED
5 EIGHT BELOW
6 D LUCKY ONES
7 SENTINEL
8 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 D LUCKY ONES
2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
3 PAMAHIIN
4 THE WILD

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
2 SENTINEL
3 THE WILD
4 D LUCKY ONES
5 BANDIDAS
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SEAGAL. Out of shape.

'Submerged' has stodgy action scenes

By Noelani Torre

TEN MINUTES INTO the new Steven Seagal starrer "Submerged," you'll find yourself squirming in your seat, wishing you were someplace else.

Granted, nobody expects Academy Award fare from the pony-tailed action star, or even high-class action, but at least, his earlier movies made an attempt to be coherent and entertaining. His latest potboiler is a mess. Let's begin with the plot:

Stronghold

There's this evil Nazi-type doctor, who's playing around with mind-control in Uruguay. This has resulted in the murder of the US ambassador by a mind-controlled member of her own staff. The team sent to storm the doc's stronghold fails to do so since—surprise, surprise—one of them is *also* mind-controlled.

Enter our hero, Chris Cody (Seagal), a former commando imprisoned for some vague crime, and his band of merry men. He and his men have to get the job done, and if they do so, then, they're free to go.

The aforementioned stronghold is stormed by half a dozen people who hardly get hit, and then a submarine turns up from out of nowhere.

This isn't even a B movie. Consider if you will the mind-control premise that has already been overused (i.e. "The Manchurian Candidate") and, in this case, is not even presented correctly. Here, all it takes to control the complex brain of an individual is to have the person watch a video!

Overwrought

That would have been forgivable if the action scenes were any good, but unfortunately, they aren't. They're stodgy and unexciting, and director Anthony Hickox makes it worse by attempting to simulate thrill *via* choppy shots and an overwrought soundtrack.

Then, there's Seagal himself. We're used to his one-expression-all-the-time kind of acting. So, the fact that he doesn't even blink when the sub is sinking comes as no surprise.

Overweight

Unfortunately, he no longer has the lean-and-mean look required to carry off that kind of sangfroid. He's overweight and out of shape. He lumbers and "lumbering" is not a word you want to apply to an action hero.

The movie's only good point is Vinnie Jones ("Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels"), who has more presence than all of the other actors combined. Not surprisingly, he doesn't share the screen that often with the topbilled star, lest he outshine his pony-tailed-ness.

'Pepot Artista,' Pinoy indies grace Singapore filmfest

By Rito P. Asilo

SINGAPORE—THE booming Pinoy indie film movement has caught the attention of the organizers of the 19th Singapore Film Festival, which closes today. Included in the roster of films competing for the filmfest's Silver Screen awards are Doy del Mundo's "Pepot Artista" (best picture winner of the First Cinemalaya filmfest), Raya Martin's award-winning documentary, "A Short Film About Indio Nacional," and John Torres' "Todo Todo Teros."

DEL MUNDO. Must-see film.

Exciting lineup

The three Filipino films join the exciting lineup that includes Mani Haghigi's "Men at Work" (Iran), Kelvin Tong's "Love Story" (Singapore-Hong Kong), Nidal Al-Dib's "Under the Ceiling" (Syria), Jocelyne Saab's "Kiss Me Not on the Eyes" (Lebanon), Riri Naza's "Gie" (Indonesia), Ryuichi Hiroki's "It's Only Talk" (Japan), Ying Liang's "Taking Father Home" (China) and Sandip Ray's "After the Night…Dawn" (India).

Special section

A special section of the festival that struck us is "The New Philippines Digital Cinema."

Changi Express' Sheryl Quek includes Del Mundo's film in her short list of must-see films at the festival.

Indeed, the world is noticing the efforts of our filmmakers to help the Philippine movie industry rise from the slump it's in!

Eddie Romero…

From page A3-1

walks away.

Romero is considerate and asks De Leon if the actor is ready for a take. It is a collaborative effort from everyone. On the night's lastd shot, as Romero is about to take Palermo's medium shot, suddenly the lights go off! There is a brownout. Calmly, Romero calls it a day and thanks everyone on the set. The stars and staff then head for a "candlelight" dinner in this romantic love story by the country's only living National Artist for Film.

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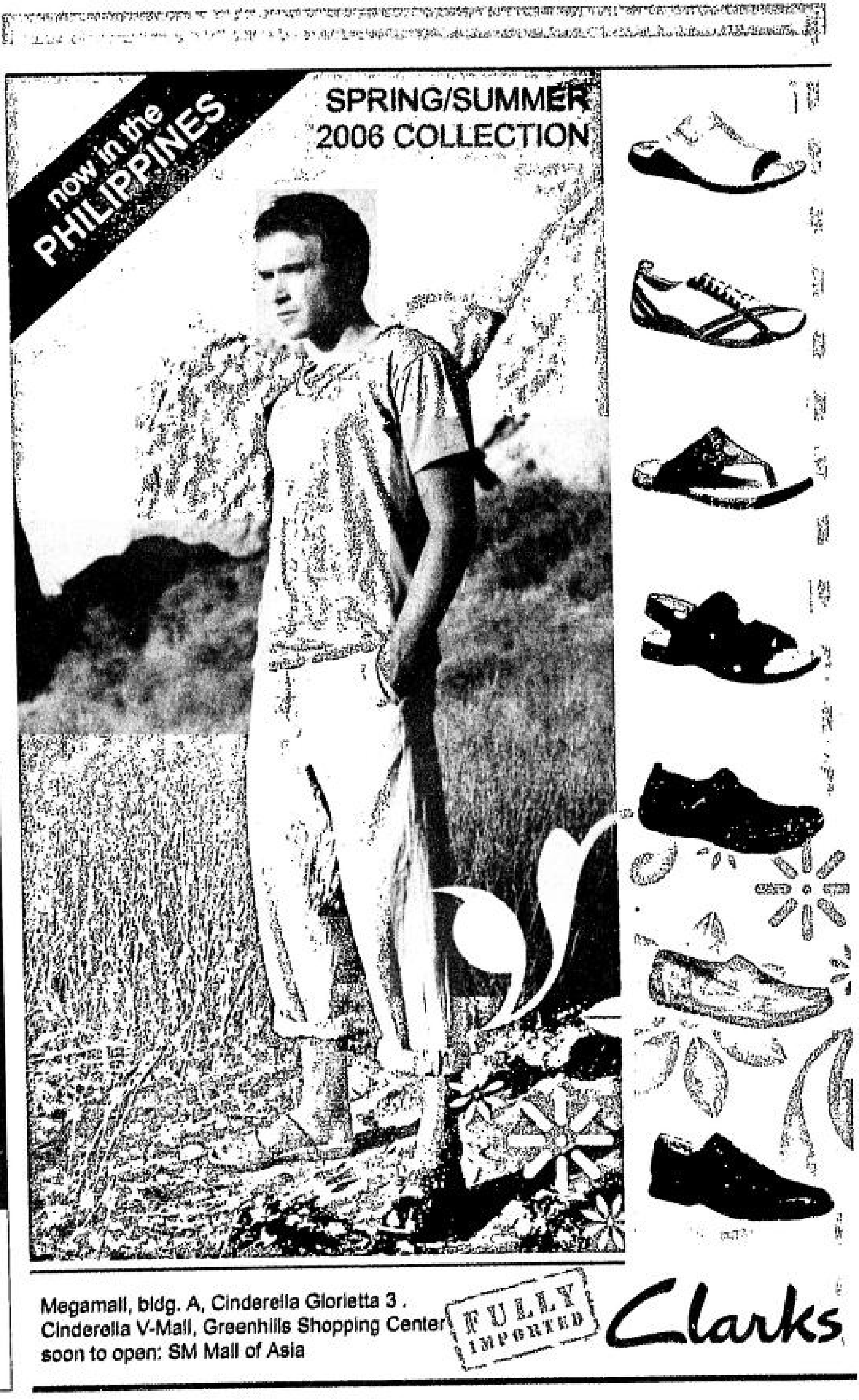
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4 SILENT HILL
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
5 SLITHER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
6 THE WILD
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
7 PAMAHIIN
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5 SLITHER
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6 PAMAHIIN
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Downbeat surprises on teen 'PBB' show

By Nestor U. Torre

ANDERSON. Top marks for looks.

LAST APRIL 23, ABS-CBN introduced the 12 young lookers who are the new "housemates" in Channel 2's latest edition of "Pinoy Big Brother." One by one, they were trotted out for the viewing public's curious and fond perusal.

Getting top masks for looks were Gerald Anderson and Nina Atienza, but the others (Fred Payawan, Michael Lee, Kim Chiu, Bam Romana, Olyn Membian, Jamilla Obispo, Matthew Evans, Clare Cabiguin, Aldred Gatchalian and Mikki Arceo) had their own plus points going for them.

Clearly, we're in for a fun and frisky time with these new star wannabes.

First impression

After that upbeat first impression, however, the initial week of "PBB Teen" sightings has been less than choice. This latest batch's youth gives its members a winning vitality, but it also makes them look like peas in a pod.

Let's hope that they'll soon reveal individual traits that will add variety to their daily "aquarium" act on TV, or else viewers' interest could pall more quickly than expected.

To be sure, if the teen edition's expected viewership is made up of similarly young people, they could be happy enough just watching the show's frisky bunch do its thing in front of the show's all-seeing cameras, from day to day.

It's older viewers who could want more, and not get it from the new TV challenge that seeks to celebrate teenagers in all their youth, beauty—and sameness.

Team spirit

In any case, the show's first week of telecasts has generally affirmed expectations, with the teen housemates being given tasks meant to develop their team spirit. Also par for the course are the budding romantic relationships, crushes, giggly teen talk and jive.

What is turning out to be a downbeat surprise, however, is the early emergence of covert infighting and even outright verbal brawls, as their stressful fishbowl existence quickly gets to the show's young housemates.

Being teenagers, they are less ready to cope with those unnatural stresses than the challenge's previous, older housemates.

So the program's resident counselors and youth psychologists have their work cut out for them to help the teens get a better handle on their admittedly disconcerting existence on "PBB":

All "alone" in a house—but for all the world to see!

That's a contradiction in terms that requires greater maturity to deal with.

Breakdowns

We're also bothered by what seems to be an emerging "neurotic" streak among some of the young housemates. Emotional breakdowns, tearful catfights, sullen withdrawals—these are happening too early in the game, so what gives?

Of course, these outbursts make the show more "eventful," but at what cost to the 12 teens' equanimity? We trust that the young housemates' relationships will not continue to deteriorate, especially when the romantic angle, with all of its passions and frustrations, starts to kick in.

Finally, we hope that, after the teen challenge is over, its 12 young housemates turn out to be better people than they were when they first entered Big Brother's "aquarium" last April 23. Isn't that what all this fuss and bother should be about?

New recording company offers alternative to mainstream

By Jocelyn Valle

THE LOCAL RECORDING industry is finally bouncing back with hit albums (the duo MYMP and soul siren Nina closed 2005 by hitting the platinum mark seven and six times, respectively) and chart-busting music videos (OPM gives foreign acts stiff competition every week on MYX)—encouraging signs for new record labels to open shop.

VILLALUZ. More control and freedom.

Uphill battle

But Eugene Villaruz, president and general manager of Holiday Records, admits it's an uphill battle against the current players that are affiliates of either a global conglomerate or a giant network.

"We'd rather be the alternative to mainstream," he points out. "We'll find a new niche."

Holiday Records' roster is made up of newbies like promising comedienne Janna Trias and Filipino-Chinese balladeer Mike Chan, whose CD Lites are already in the can and are just awaiting airplay from radio stations.

Vocalist

First Circle vocalist Ria Garcia, soap actor Deejay Durano and "Search for a Star in a Million, Season 2" finalist Anna Baluyot are now recording their own CD Lites.

Eugene confirms that producing a CD Lite that features only half a dozen tracks is a good way of introducing a fresh talent to the public.

Economical

"It's economical," he explains, adding that the scene has gone back to the singles market of yore when 45 rpm vinyl records ruled.

"If the CD Lite succeeds, then we can make it into a full-length album," he shares

Allyna, the voice behind naughty songs "Kahit Gaano Kalaki" and "Hindi na Masakit," turned to producing her own CD Lite, which will be distributed by Holiday Records.

Title track

The title track is "I Never Dreamed Someone Like You Could Love Someone Like Me," originally done by Katie Irving for the "Carrie" soundtrack.

Eugene happily reports that popular band Side A and singer Agot Isidro have also signed up with Holiday Records.

"The best thing about working for an upstart company is being granted more control and freedom," he beams. "It's very challenging!"

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GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE WILD 1:10, 3:05, 5:00, 6:55, 8:50, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SENTINEL 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 TRISTAN & ISOLDE 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SLITHER 1:35, 3:25, 5:15, 7:05, 8:55, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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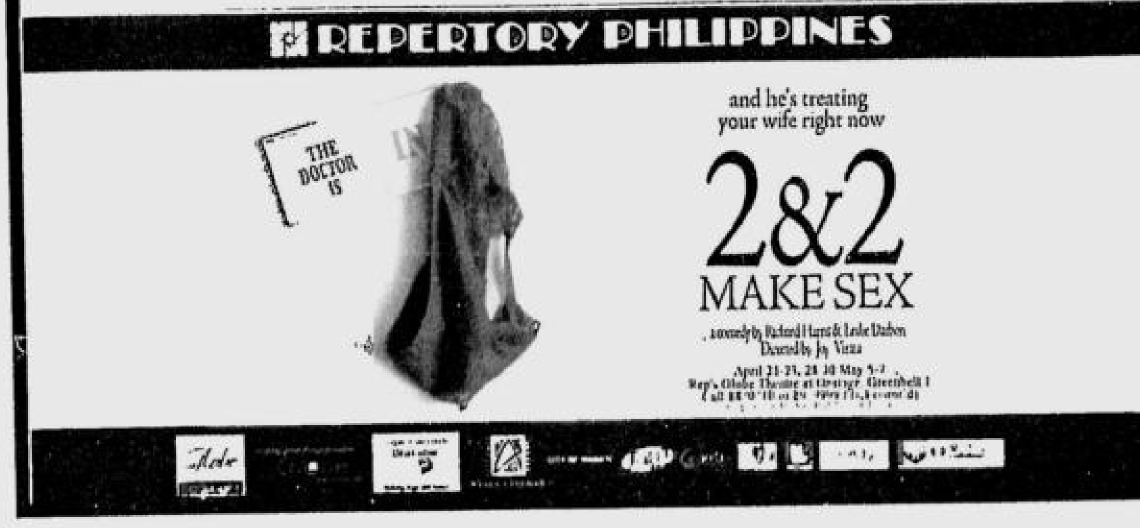

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Cinemalaya 2006 is on the right track

SORIANO. Cast in two entries.

By Andy Bais

WITH A MONTH TO GO FOR THIS YEAR'S batch of Cinemalaya entries to submit their finished products, Robbie Tan, chairman of the indie filmfest's monitoring team, is confident that the filmmakers of the 10 festival entries will be able to meet the May 31 deadline. In fact, some entries are now about to start post-production work, while others are on their final shooting days.

This year's entries are different from last year's in a number of ways, according to Robbie. "*Mas maraming* out-of-town location. 'Batad sa Paang Palay' is being shot in the Cordilleras, and 'Donsol,' in Sorsogon. *Mas* varied *din ang mga* storyline. For example, Domingo Lazam III's Anino sa Apuhap is about love, truth and infidelity in the world of the blind.

Female boxers

'In Da Red Korner' is about female boxers and 'Saan Nagtatago si Happiness' is about the search of an ice cream vendor for his lost mother. These are the types of movies that local mainstream cinema would not have done."

There is also a marked increase in the number of mainstream stars in this year's entries, notes Robbie. "Last year's best actress winner Meryll Soriano is in two projects, 'In Da Red Korner' and 'Rotonda.'

"'Saan Nagtatago si Happiness' features several mainstream veterans—Caridad Sanchez, Nanette Inventor, Rez Cortez, Lou Veloso, Ricky Davao and Nonie Buencamino."

Success

"Part of the reason *na mas maraming* mainstream stars *ngayon* could be the success of the first Cinemalaya competition. A lot of them want to try the indie experience—working with first-time film directors who have a different way of telling a story—and maybe, experience a style of filmmaking which is very different from mainstream."

Thus far, it's hard to judge the quality of the films, says Robbie. "Part of our monitoring team's job is to watch the films' raw footage. A film can transform into a beautiful piece of work or *maging pangit siya* after post-production. *Ang masasabi lang namin* at this point, *ay kung tama ang* casting or *kung* off *ang* shots. And I have to tell them straight to the point *kung pangit ang ginagawa nila.*

"Happy *ako at wala pa namang na-* offend *sa mga* comment ko. *Siguro, dahil* I also help them in other aspects. For example, they need a certain star and they don't know how to go about it, *ako na ang kakausap sa* manager *at tatawad pa sa* talent fee."

Advice

Monitoring team member John Nepomuceno adds that the advice they give to the present crop of filmmakers extends beyond proper handling of funds, casting and technical aspects. They also help them in the creative side of the production.

"*Kinukulit namin sila.* Aside from doing paperwork and constant phone calls to know the progress of their work, we also visit them during shoots to see how they are doing. But, the filmmakers still have the last say on their work," says John.

While some of the entries have taken off smoothly, others were not as lucky. "Mga Anino sa Apuhap" took some time to start grinding because the script underwent changes. The film's director also had a hard time looking for an efficient line producer.

Supportive

Other causes of delay were technical in nature, says John—unavailability of shooting equipment, or the high rental cost from providers. Fortunately, some technical providers were supportive. "Credit goes to the success of the Cinemalaya last year. Somehow, they want to be part of it this year,"John observes.

Untoward incidents do happen, like the two-week setback in the production of "In Da Red Korner," when its production manager passed away while on duty.

On the lighter side, Robbie is happy with the working attitude of this year's Cinemalaya filmmakers. "Thus far, *parang walang mga* 'diva' *ngayon*. Based on our comments *sa kanilang* submitted tapes of raw footage, *nakita naman namin na may* improvement *sa trabaho nila sa susunod na* submission. That means they don't take our comments personally."

Where are the religious films of yore?

By Behn Cervantes

"WHERE ARE THE RELIGIOUS FILMS? WHY aren't they being shown anymore?," asked Ellen Alvarez after a sumptuous Bacolod lunch.

Ellen's sadness was amplified by her husband Babes, and Rovi, my niece. "Yes, what happened to those epic films they used to show during Lent?," Ellen continued. "Remember 'Marcelino Pan y Vino?'," I asked. "'Samson and Delilah?' and 'The Ten Commandments?,'" added Rovi.

These days, there is little concern for the significance of Christmas or Lent. Explosive action films or gooey romantic films are exhibited despite the public's need for serious and thought-provoking fare. Movie exhibitors exert little effort to complement the significance of the seasons.

"Who played Samson again?," Ellen asked. "Victor Mature!," I answered. Then, I remembered actors who are known for their "religious" roles:

Most prominent

Charlton Heston was Moses in "The Ten Commandments," and played the title role in "Ben Hur."

Matinee idol Jeffrey Hunter reprised the role of Jesus in "King of Kings." The first version made some 40 years before was in black and white. The Hunter version was in Technicolor and Cinemascope. Mature essayed the title role in "Demetrius and the Gladiators."

Deborah Kerr as the Christian love of Robert Taylor's centurion was saintly and inspiring in the classic, "Quo Vadis."

Jennifer Jones won a best actress Oscar for "The Song of Bernadette." Her portrayal impressed *colegialas* who aspired to become a saint like her.

Role models

Colegialas eager for Hollywood role models were confused when Ingrid Bergman portrayed the feisty but vulnerable "St. Joan." When the French maiden was burned at the stake, many of them wept. Alas, Ingrid was soon involved in a scandal so shocking that Tinseltown "condemned" her and her lover, Roberto Rossellini, for more than a decade!

Richard Burton was himself involved in a religious "transformation" in "The Robe." Hollywood's first Cinemascope production was epic (and was as well received in the Philippines as were "The Ten Commandments" and "Ben Hur").

It turns out that Burton was wooing his leading lady, Jean Simmons, while the religious film was being shot! This stressed Jean's jealous husband, Stewart Granger. Eventually, the couple divorced.

Movie fans soon realized that there was a difference between what was reel and real, but their yen for religious films during Lent remains the same. But, where *are* they!

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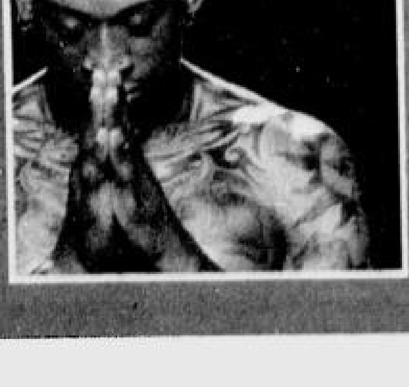

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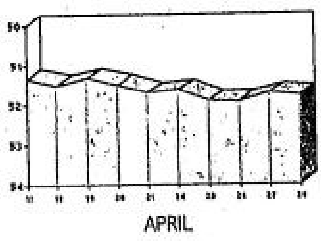

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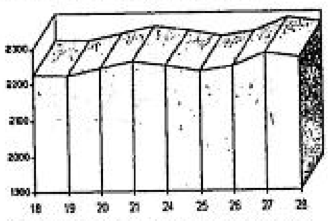
STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Shares end lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.48-PERcent lower yesterday in a technical correction after recent gains took the market to near seven-year highs, dealers said.

SHARES/ B2

Teves says indicators show 'substantial gains' on fiscal front

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES HAS URGED RATINGS FIRM Moody's Investors Service to consider upgrading the country's credit rating.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said he told officials of Moody's that despite the country's huge debt stock, the country has achieved substantial gains on the fiscal front. Teves met with the Moody's executives during the recent roadshow by Philippine economic officials in New York.

Teves said he had asked Moody's not to focus too much on the country's debt burden and instead recognize other indicators that would show how much the country's fiscal sector has improved.

The Philippines' credit rating with Moody's stands at four notches below investment grade, making it more expensive to borrow abroad because of the risk premium.

"(Fiscal officials from the Philippines) asked Moody's if we could offer other indicators that can compensate for the high debt levels," Teves said. "There should be other criteria to be considered, and we have already made substantial progress in other areas."

Teves cited the government's shrinking budget deficit, which has allowed the allocation of more money for social services and infrastructure.

Under the fiscal program for 2006, the government has earmarked 30 percent of the expected additional revenues from the VAT Reform Law for pump-priming purposes, mainly to build additional farm-to-market roads and bridges, and improve education and health services.

MOODY'S/ B2

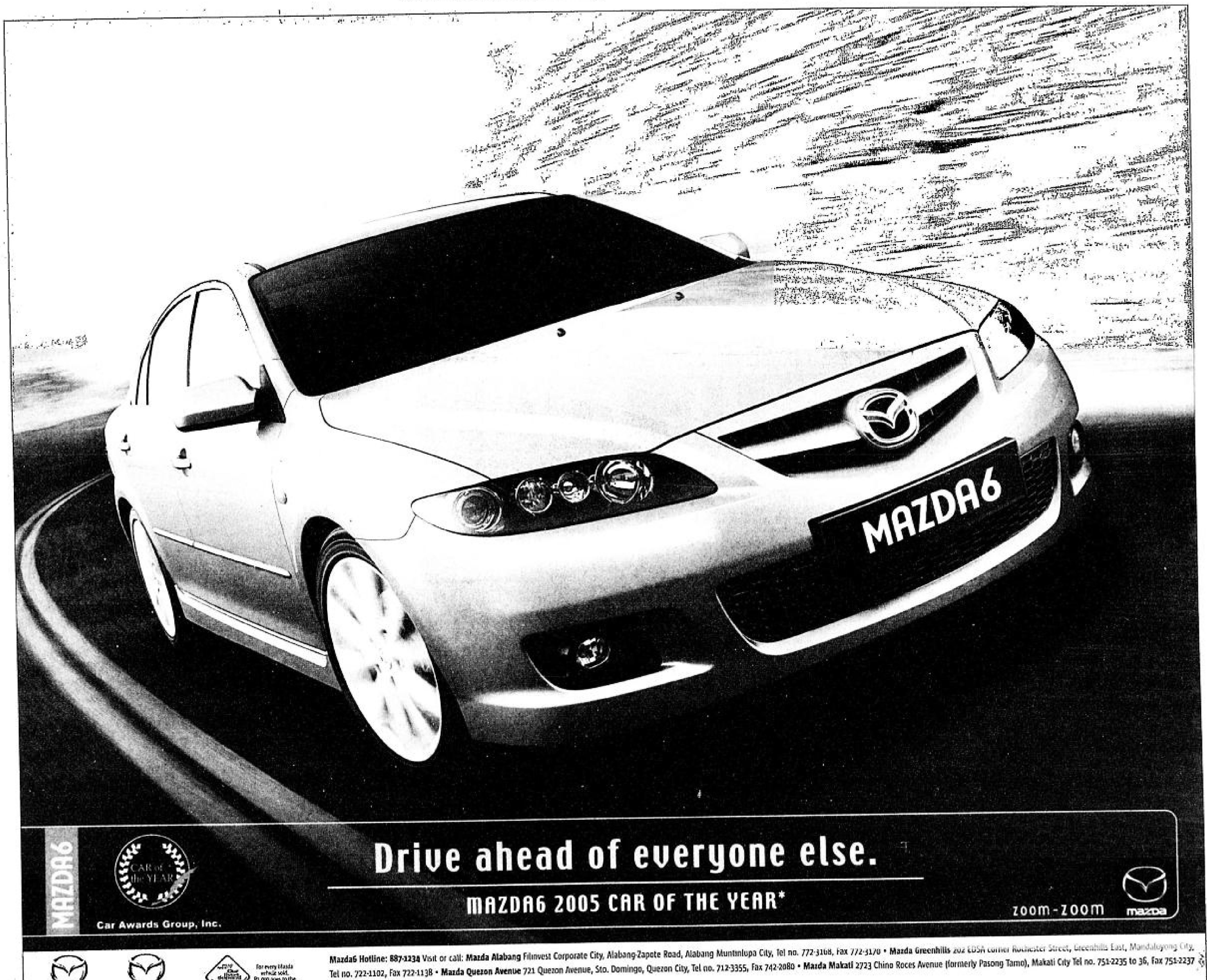
WHAT'S INSIDE

Inflation to reach 7.7% in April, BSP estimates

/B2

Meat firms commit to hold off price increases

/B6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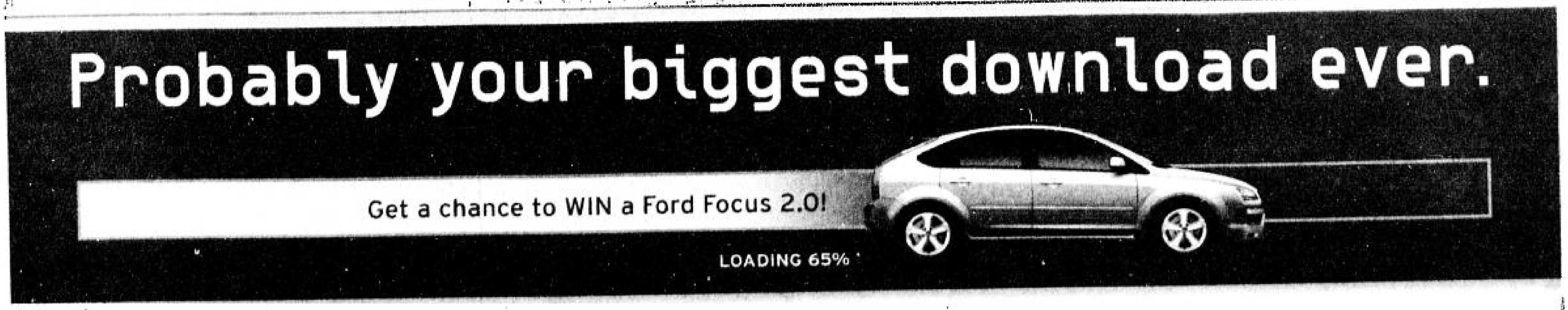
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Inflation to reach 7.7% in April, BSP estimates

Regulator points to oil price hikes, impact of expanded VAT

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS SEES the average inflation in April inching up to 7.7 percent due to the unabated oil price increases and the effect of the higher value-added tax.

"It may be higher than in March due to increases in oil prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

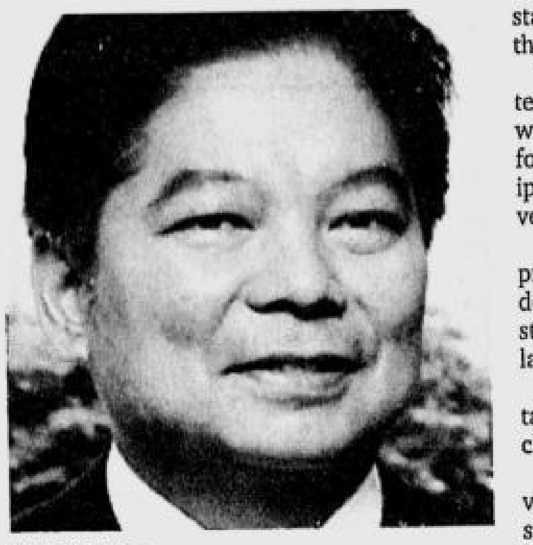
For February and March, annual inflation firmed up at 7.6 percent, but the BSP was not yet sure if the rate peaked in April when global oil prices surged to a record $75 a barrel.

In a briefing yesterday, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that for the whole year, the BSP expects average inflation to range between 7.3-7.9 percent, exceeding the official target of 4-5 percent.

"Inflation will remain above target in 2006 but will revert to target in 2007 in the absence of any new adverse factors," Guinigundo said.

The BSP's latest assessment indicates that the country's inflation could ease to 4-5 percent by next year assuming that Dubai oil prices would not exceed $63.36 a barrel.

"Despite the impact of the increase on the VAT rate, inflation forecasts continue to point to a deceleration in the second half of 2006," Guinigundo said.



TETANGCO

In line with the BSP's expectations, inflation rose in the first quarter of the year, reflecting the impact of the 2-percentage point increase in the VAT rate.

"However, first-quarter average inflation was lower relative to the same quarter in 2005 as the upward pressures on inflation were cushioned by the strengthening of the peso, stabilizing liquidity growth and the rollback in prices of selected oil products in March," Tetangco said.

Tetangco noted that liquidity growth had stabilized but remained ample, helping boost the peso.

"Reduced government borrowing helped temper the growth in domestic liquidity, which nonetheless remained ample due to foreign exchange inflows from overseas filipino worker remittances and portfolio investments," Tetangco said.

"Positive market sentiment owing to improvements in the fiscal sector has driven down bond yields and contributed to the strengthening of the peso against the US dollar," he added.

For its part, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board kept the BSP's policy rates unchanged during the first quarter.

"Looking ahead, a number of factors provide continued policy space to keep monetary settings steady in the near term," Tetangco said.

Oil prices are seen to constitute the dominant risk to the outlook for prices in the face of limited global spare capacity, making energy prices vulnerable to any perceived uncertainty in the supply chain.

"Monetary authorities remain strongly committed to achieving the inflation target for 2007 and addressing the risks to future inflation. In the months ahead, the main policy priority continues to be that of managing the risk of potential second-round effects on wage and price setting," he said.

European courier urged to put up hub in Subic

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT IS WOOING a European courier service firm to put up shop in Subic as the scheduled transfer of Federal Express' Asian hub from the freeport to China nears.

An official privy to the matter said authorities had invited the company to visit possible sites in Subic and assess opportunities for a hub of operations here through their respective distribution network.

The official declined to name the firm, saying it might get turned off with the premature publicity.

With American firms Fedex operating a hub in Subic and UPS in Clark special economic zone, the country is hosting half of the four biggest package delivery and supply chain service providers in the world.

The remaining two are Netherlands-headquartered TNT NV and Germany's DHL International, both of which already have presence here.

At the same time, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the government was still trying to convince Fedex to keep its hub in the Philippines.

"We have met with Fedex officials in the United States and we asked them to at least maintain their presence in the country," Favila said.

He added that Fedex had announced plans to put up back office support operations as well as customs clearance and billing services in the Philippines.

Early last year, Fedex announced it was putting up a new Asia-Pacific hub in China and would no longer renew its contract with Subic when it expires in 2008.

PAL, Gulf Air ink pact

By Daxim L. Lucas

BAHRAIN-BASED GULF AIR AND flag carrier Philippine Airlines yesterday sealed a deal allowing both airlines to offer seats to clients on each other's flights.

The deal also allows both carriers to profit from the scheme whenever their own clients fly on the routes of the other airline.

With the so-called "special pro-rate agreement," PAL will be able to offer flight to Europe to its passengers using Gulf Air's network to Dublin, Frankfurt and Paris, Gulf Air president and CEO James Hogan said in a press briefing.

Gulf Air, for its part, will benefit from Philippine Airlines' routes in Asia, he said.

Officials of both airlines declined to reveal financial details of the deal although both groups said that the scheme was "promising."

At the same time, Gulf Air and PAL also formalized their code share agreement which actually began commercial operations late last month.

The agreement was signed recently at GulfAir's headquarters in Manama, Bahrain by Gulf Air network vice president Fareed Al Alawi and PAL senior assistant vice president for external affairs Ma. Socorro R. Gonzaga.

Subic investor to pay for settlers' relocation

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A KOREAN SHIPBUILDER THAT IS PUTTING up a $1-billion facility in Subic is picking up the tab of relocating informal settlers in the project site to another area in an effort to hasten the start of its operation.

Armand C. Arreza, chief executive of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said Hanjin Shipping Co. Ltd. would pay for the costs of moving some 300 households to an area not too far from the Redondo peninsula where the shipyard would be built.

Arreza said the company had already paid for new school buildings that would replace the existing elementary and a high school in the area.

He said Hanjin was taking the initiative on its own and had signed a relocation agreement late last February.

It was not divulged, however, how much Hanjin had earmarked for the relocation.

"But since the agreed relocation site is not yet ready, the company will build temporary accommodation for the families," Arreza said.

Asked how cooperative the settlers were, he said most were amenable to the arrangement with Hanjin, although about 10 or 12 families were "resistant."

The SBMA administrator added that Hanjin had committed to take into its workforce at least one household member of the settler families. The company is expected to employ 6,000 people for this project.

"Hanjin needs to start developing the shipyard and raise a workforce," he said. "I learned that it already has orders for four vessels from a client in France."

Also, the shipbuilder has earmarked P1 billion for training and development of human resources.

Of the amount, between P50 million and P100 million was set aside particularly for the training of welders in Subic.

The company is working with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority for the production of qualified welders who would help manufacture vessels that could stand the rigors of the high seas and of voyages through various climates and extreme conditions.

In an earlier interview, Arreza said the planned shipyard would be the fourth-largest in the world and would be able to handle big vessels that can accommodate 8,000-twenty-foot equivalent units (a TEU being a 20-foot dry-cargo container.

The shipyard will take five years to build.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

MAY 4, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • THE TAIPAN REST. HOTEL - VALENCIA, Pob. Hway., Valencia City, Bukidnon

BUKIDNON

DON CARLOS

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: [illegible] WITHDRAWN
Lot [illegible]-B) Abad Santos St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 926,000.00

MALAYBALAY

LOT 2 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 247.00 sqm.
Lot 2352 Prov'L. Road, Casisang
Minimum Bid Price : 148,500.00

LOT 3 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 753.00 sqm.
Lot 1463 Brgy. Road, Linabo
Minimum Bid Price : 96,050.00

LOT 4 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT.
Lot Area: 949.00 sqm.
Lot 1434 Brgy. Road, Linabo
Minimum Bid Price : 71,250.00

LOT 5 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 26,673.00 sqm.
Lot 1300 & 1307 Brgy. Patpat,
Minimum Bid Price : 316,350.00

MARAMAG

LOT 6 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 74,412.00 sqm.
Lot 395 Bayabason,
Minimum Bid Price : 781,200.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,337.00 sqm.
Lot 715 Old Sayre Highway Dologon
Minimum Bid Price : 413,250.00

LOT 8 - AGRILAND WITHDRAWN
Lot Area 32,[illegible]
Lot [illegible] Road Dologon
Minimum Bid Price : 391,200.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 261.00 sqm.
Lot No. 6672, # 0809 Prov'L. Road, M. Del Pilar St., North Poblacion,
Minimum Bid Price : 152,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 317.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.00 sqm.
Lot 6760 (Pls-98 Ext.) M. L. Quezon Ave., South Poblacion,
Minimum Bid Price : 517,600.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 369.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 148.00 sqm.
Lot 6759 (Lot 37), Quezon Ave., North Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 738,750.00

LOT 12 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 583.00 sqm.
Lot 3554 Brgy. Rd. Base Camp
Minimum Bid Price : 93,600.00

QUEZON

LOT 13 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 36,333.00 sqm.
Lot 3482 Nat'L Highway Palacapao
Minimum Bid Price : 232,800.00

LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 70,118.00 sqm.
Lot 154 Puntian
Minimum Bid Price : 318,500.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 800.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 232.00 sqm.
Lot 940 Nat'L. Highway Cor. Brgy. Road, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 271,800.00

LOT 16 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 31,700.00 sqm.
Lot 857 San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 155,400.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 580.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 228.00 sqm.
Lot 1680 Municipal Rd Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 584,250.00

LOT 18 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot No. 855 Case 2
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 404.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-B Quezon
Minimum Bid Price : 258,400.00

LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 56,117.00 sqm.
Lot No. 554 Quezon
Minimum Bid Price : 359,200.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1041-D-1-C-1-A-12 & A-13-B Subd. Rd. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 384,000.00

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-C-1-A-4-B Subd. Road, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1041-D-1-C-1-A-4-C Subd. Road, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT WITHDRAWN
Lot Area 762.00 [illegible]
Floor [illegible]
Lot [illegible] Rizal St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 892,000.00

LOT 25 - AGRILAND WITHDRAWN
Lot Area 12,[illegible]
Lot [illegible] Liberted
Minimum Bid Price : 106,000.00

LOT 26 - AGRILAND WITHDRAWN
Lot Area 41,[illegible]
Lot [illegible] Road, Liberted
Minimum Bid Price : 344,000.00

LOT 27 - AGRILAND WITHDRAWN
Lot Area 6,[illegible]
Lot [illegible]
Minimum Bid Price : 95,000.00

VALENCIA

LOT 28 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 645.00 sqm.
Lot 677 Brgy. Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 170,400.00

LOT 29 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 540.00 sqm.
Lot 5-A-3-C Subd. Road, Flores Subd. Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 160,650.00

LOT 30 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Lot No. 49-P Brgy. Road, Brgy. Bagontaas, ,
Minimum Bid Price : 153,000.00

LOT 31 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300+600= 900.00 sqm.
Lot 79-E-2 & E-1 Brgy. Road, Sugod Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 202,500.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,302.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 181.00 sqm.
Lot 5-A-11-B, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price . 684,450.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 844.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-A-2 Subd. Road Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 202,400.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 593.00 sqm.
Lot No. 79-F-4 Brgy. Road, Bagontaas,
Minimum Bid Price : 142,400.00

LOT 35 - AGRILAND WITHDRAWN
Lot Area: 20,[illegible]
Lot [illegible] Rd., Upper Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 288,000.00

LOT 36 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 825.00 sqm.
Lot 47-A-3 Subd. Rd.,Bagonta-As
Minimum Bid Price : 132,000.00

LOT 37 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 59,885.00 sqm.
Lot 2754-L & 2754-A Int. Lot, Buyog, Banlag
Minimum Bid Price : 670,600.00

LOT 38 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 59,886.00 sqm.
Lot 2754-J Brgy. Rd., Buyog, Banlag
Minimum Bid Price : 670,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 799.00 sqm.
Lot 523 Prov. Rd., Bo. Barangan
Minimum Bid Price : 192,000.00

LOT 40 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 803.00 sqm.
Lot 2549 Brgy. Road, Batangan
Minimum Bid Price : 96,000.00

LOT 41 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 659.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 8 Subd. Road, Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,318,400.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 749.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-D Nat'L. Hway, Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,067,800.00

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 748.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-O Nat'L. Hway, Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 1,065,900.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 213.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 4 Subd. Road, Juanilla Subd., Hagkol
Minimum Bid Price : 181,050.00

LOT 45 - WITH DILAPIDATED IMPROVEMENT WITHDRAWN
Lot [illegible] sqm.
Lot [illegible] Brgy. Road, Lumbayao
Minimum Bid Price : 142,800.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 838.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot No. 179 Lumbayao
Minimum Bid Price : 142,400.00

LOT 47 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 285.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Sayre Hway. Brgy. Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 153,900.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 98.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 42.00 sqm.
Lot 12-N-2 Brgy. Road, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 157,500.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 472.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 203.00 sqm.
Lot 2-J, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 895,500.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 778.00 sqm.
Lot 239-I, 239-G & 239-H Nat'L.Highway, Purok 3, Lumbo
Minimum Bid Price : 443,650.00

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 356.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 69.00 sqm.
Lot No. 363 Lurugan
Minimum Bid Price : 174,750.00

LOT 52 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 993.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-A Old Nat'L. Hway. Mailag
Minimum Bid Price : 79,200.00

LOT 53 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 1,453.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-B & 2-A-2-C Old Nat'L. Highway, Mailag
Minimum Bid Price : 87,200.00

LOT 54 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 2,835.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-D, 2-A-2-E, 2-A-2-F & 2-A-2-G Old Nat'L. Hway, Mailag
Minimum Bid Price : 176,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 603.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 358 Nat'L. Highway Cor. Brgy. Road, Patag, Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 374,400.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 213.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 63.00 sqm.
Lot 336-C Nat'L. Highway, Patag, Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 202,400.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 801.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 330-9 Brgy. Road, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price : 245,600.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 792.00 sqm.
Lot 330-4 Brgy. Road, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 588.00 sqm.
Lot 8-D-4 Subd. Road, Tago Subd., Tagostos
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 587.00 sqm.
Lot 8-D-5 Subd. Road, Tago Subd., Tagostos
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

LOT 61 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 37,208.00 sqm.
Lot 21 Brgy. Road, Tugaya
Minimum Bid Price : 379,100.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 299.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 66.00 sqm.
Lot 30-F-2-A-7-C Existing Road, # 3594 Karway St., Yulo Subd., P-13, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 231,200.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 192.00 sqm.
Floor Area 150.00 sqm.
Lot 214 Mabini St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,809,900.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 343.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 60.00 sqm.
Plan Plot No. 195-I-4 Alley, Purok 10, Poblacion,
Minimum Bid Price : 92,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 90.00 sqm.
Lot 194-H-1 Municipal Road, # 2574 Purok 10, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 484,800.00

LOT 66 - WITH FULLY DEPRECIATED IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 486.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2 M. Roxas St.
Minimum Bid Price : 949,200.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 206.00 sqm.
Lot 1-I-4-P-8 Orchid St., Purok 16, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 175,100.00

LOT 68 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 55,849.00 sqm.
Lot 455 Barobo
Minimum Bid Price : 418,500.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 275.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 190.00 sqm.
Lot 216-G Municipal Road, # 1193 Purok 4, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 436,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 594.00 sqm.
Floor Area 42.00 sqm.
Lot 262-B A. Bonifacio St., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,160,900.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 180.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 213.00 sqm.
Lot 330 T.N. Pepito St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,224,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 752.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 112.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-B-4 # 4266 Orchid St., P-16A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 514,500.00

LOT 73 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 114.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Brgy. Road & Subd. Road, Purok 13, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 64,500.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 325.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 42.00 sqm.
Lot 195-L-8-D-1 Subd. Rd. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 234,000.00

LOT 75 - WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 319.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2, M. Roxas St.
Minimum Bid Price : 881,400.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 519.00 sqm.
Lot 201-C-1 Purok 10, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 248,800.00

LOT 77 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 7,200.00 sqm.
Lot 226-Ee-17-C Garcia St. Prk.3
Minimum Bid Price : 5,040,000.00

LOT 78 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 430.00 sqm.
Lot 222-U-9-J Road Lot, Purok 4, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 137,600.00

LOT 79 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 444.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 10, Subd. Road, Sunkiss Vill., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 248,800.00

LOT 80 - AGRILAND WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT WITHDRAWN
Lot Area [illegible]
Lot [illegible] Patag, Bagonta-As, Valencia
Minimum Bid Price : 231,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 192.00 sqm.
Lot 7076 (Lot5560-A) Guinoroyan Road, Purok 10, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 553,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 602.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 475.00 sqm.
Lot 1123 Alley, M. Fortich St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 836,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 802.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 1686 Old Nat'L Hway, Dagatkidavao
Minimum Bid Price : 750,000.00

LOT 84 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 988.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-C-6 Subd. Rd. Bagontas
Minimum Bid Price : 198,000.00

LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-1-A-5 Subd. Rd. Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 120,000.00

LOT 86 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 601.00 sqm.
Lot 115-A-12 Subd. Rd. Brgy. Bagontaas
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

LOT 87 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 40,571.00 sqm.
Lot 2-P Lurugan
Minimum Bid Price : 227,000.00

LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 620.00 sqm.
Lot A-11-C-7-B Brgy Rd.
Minimum Bid Price : 347,000.00

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Moody's ...

From page B1

Teves also noted the gains in the privatization of state assets, which boosted the government's revenue collection efforts.

Last year, the government was able to generate more than P2 billion from the sale of public assets, including shares in Philippine National Bank.

The finance chief also stressed the fact that despite the government's heavy debt load, the liabilities were long term in nature, thus putting the country's debt position very far from crisis levels.

ING Investment Management earlier projected that the Philippines was not likely to get a credit-rating upgrade in the near term because rating firms normally put a high premium on debt levels when issuing credit ratings.

The financial firm noted that the national government's debt-to-GDP ratio of 83 percent, which was much higher than those in neighboring countries, was still far from the sustainable level of 50 percent.

In absolute terms, the debt of the national government reached P3.88 trillion in end-2005.

Rob Drijkoningen, head of ING's emerging markets debt group, said the Philippines has to cut its debt-to-GDP ratio to 70 percent or below to get a credit-rating upgrade.

At the rate the Philippines' fiscal reform program was going, he added, it would take the country until 2009 to get an upgrade.

But Teves said that considering the fact that the Philippines was coming from a very high debt level, credit-rating firms should take into consideration the manner by which it improves its fiscal standing instead of looking at the absolute debt figure alone.

Shares ...

From page B1

Worries about the security situation given possible street protests on Monday, Labor Day, also prompted investors to take profits on select heavyweights.

Financial markets will be closed Monday for the holiday.

The composite index fell 10.86 points to 2,270.53 after trading between 2,266.10 and 2,283.33. Volume was 2.22 billion shares worth P1.56 billion.

The broader all-shares index retreated 0.70 points to 1,408.43. Gainers led losers 59 to 39, with 51 stocks unchanged.

"Investors prefer to take the safe side. May 1 is distracting them," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

Dealers said most stocks were now at overbought levels after recent strong gains.

Ayala Land led the decline, ending down 75 centavos at P11.75. Its parent, Ayala Corp., gained P2.50 to close at P360.

Top-traded PLDT ended at a fresh record high, up P10 at P2,045.

San Miguel A-shares, restricted to Filipino investors, ended steady at P64. San Miguel B-shares, available to foreign investors, were down a peso at P80.

AFP

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 28, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	5	4.6	5	323,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	1,155,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61.5	62	61	61	1,258,500
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	19	19	19	19	100
Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	20.25	19.75	20.25	3,900
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.41	3,080,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71.5	71.5	71	71.5	158,800
International Exch. Bank	33	34.5	33	34.5	99,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	39	38.5	39	853,900
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	60	55	60	1,100
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	2,300
Phil. Savings Bank	38	40	37	40	6,300
Security Bank Corp.	46.5	49	46.5	49	118,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	38	38	38	38	100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
First Abacus Financial	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	460,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30	30	30	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3340	3350	3340	3350	920
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	0.99	1	260,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	200	210	200	210	7,780
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2180	2180	2180	2180	20
Ivantage Corp.	1.1	1.22	1.1	1.22	28,298,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44	45.5	44	45.5	116,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44.5	43.5	44.5	706,100
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	13	12.75	13	1,400
Manila Electric Co. B	18.75	18.75	18.25	18.5	1,122,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	3,494,000
Petron Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.15	4.2	9,076,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	190,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	23,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.28	2.85	2.28	2.85	764,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20.75	21	20.75	20.75	156,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	360,000
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.5	3.15	3.45	5,471,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	160,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64	63	64	360,500
San Miguel Corp. B	80.5	80.5	80	80	239,900
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	13,000
Universal Robina Corp.	22	22.75	22	22.75	2,389,500
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,800,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.48	1,837,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	130,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	5	4.8	5	791,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	560,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	400,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	30,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	30,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	20,000,000
Ayala Corp.	360	362.5	360	360	243,910
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	170,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	311,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.7	329,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.94	2,290,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	15,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9.1	9	9.1	13,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.95	1,730,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4	4.1	3,404,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	1,231,000
Global Business Hldgs Inc	47	80	47	80	600
House of Investments Inc.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	434,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.7	6.3	6.7	2,914,000
Medco Holdings	0.205	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,180,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	1,100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	420,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.145	0.135	0.145	5,320,000
SM Investments Corp.	238	238	230	230	122,600
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.6	0.67	0.6	0.66	2,120,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.065	0.0675	0.065	0.0675	30,400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	2,080,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.5	12.5	11.75	11.75	6,397,600
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.36	300,000
Belle Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	5,236,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	4,200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.94	2.04	1.94	2.04	3,599,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	1,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.205	4,360,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	12,510,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	70,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	1,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.4	35,863,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Interport Res. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	350,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	320,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	5,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.42	1.44	133,515,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.24	0.245	54,370,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	400,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	9.5	9.9	9.5	9.9	422,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	4,920,000
SM Development Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	389,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	688,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.125	5,030,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13.5	13	13.5	233,800
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	5,120,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	905	900	900	88,480
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.05	2.95	3.05	2,281,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2000	2050	2000	2045	107,810
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.235	0.21	0.23	31,290,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,500,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.025	0.026	106,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.7	2.95	2.7	2.95	1,341,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	914,400
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	10,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.3	27,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	297,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	360,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.25	152,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICE					
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	2.04	1.96	2.02	1,549,000
Paxys Inc.	9.4	9.8	9.4	9.8	1,393,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.8	3,647,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.8	2,026,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	89,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	1,540,000
Benguet Corp. A	12	12.25	12	12	48,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.9	1.9	1.88	1.9	92,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	72,590,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.45	49,640,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	205,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	30,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	272,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.95	4	3.85	4	7,122,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.95	4.1	3.85	4.1	8,310,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	838,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.44	800,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	850,900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.9	1,090,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.83	0.93	0.83	0.93	650,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	7.7	8.2	7.4	8.1	1,653,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.25	13.75	13	13.75	619,500

CURRENCIES

April 28, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.797957	1.000000	51.8260
Japan	Yen	0.006992	0.008763	0.4542
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437919	1.802000	93.3905
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102904	0.128959	6.6834
Switzerland	Franc	0.633350	0.793714	41.1350
Canada	Dollar	0.710622	0.890551	46.1537
Singapore	Dollar	0.504079	0.631712	32.7391
Australia	Dollar	0.603872	0.756773	39.2205
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.116710	2.652661	137.4768
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212766	0.266638	13.8188
Brunei	Dollar	0.502492	0.629723	32.6360
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000114	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.021279	0.026667	1.3820
UAE	Dirham	0.217279	0.272294	14.1119
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.253200	64.9483
Argentina	Peso	0.262918	0.329489	17.0761
Brazil	Real	0.378089	0.473821	24.5562
Denmark	Kroner	0.134072	0.168019	8.7078
India	Rupee	0.017796	0.022302	1.1558
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219823	0.275482	14.2771
Mexico	New Peso	0.071807	0.089989	4.6638
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505036	0.632911	32.8012
Norway	Kroner	0.128533	0.161077	8.3480
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013288	0.016653	0.8631
South Africa	Rand	0.129738	0.162588	8.4263
Korea	Won	0.000845	0.001059	0.0549
Sweden	Kroner	0.107556	0.134789	6.9856
Syria	Pound	0.015372	0.019264	0.9984
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025034	0.031372	1.6259
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000372	0.000466	0.0242

Too low interest rates worry ING

Seen making RP less competitive

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES WAS TOLD TO EXERCISE caution over the continued decline of domestic interest rates.

ING Investment Management, a subsidiary of the ING Group, said that while the lower rates trim down the cost of government borrowings, they could also make the country less competitive in attracting investments.

It noted that the amount by which interest rates were declining in the Philippines might not be commensurate with its credit rating.

It said existing investors might opt to transfer their investments to countries perceived less risky than the Philippines and were offering higher interest rate.

"T-bill rates can only go so low because if it falls lower than inflation rate, then you don't have a real interest rate," said PJ Garcia, chief investment officer of ING Investment Management.

The firm said the rate for the Philippines' 10-year bonds had already fallen 300 basis points in a span of only four months."

Early in the year, the 10-year T-bond rate stood at 10 percent, now it is down to 7 percent," it added.

The 91-day T-bill rate neared its four-year low and stood at 4.6 percent last April 17 before settling at 4.62 percent the week after. The current T-bill rate is already lower than the country's inflation rate, which hit 7.6 percent last month.

A lower-than-inflation interest rate means that whatever investors gain from investing in debt instruments would only be gobbled up by the increase in consumer prices.

Rob Drijkoningen, head of ING's emerging markets debt group, said the Philippines should work on having a strong balance-of-payments position to ensure that it was protected from the adverse effects of capital flight.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier reported that the country's BOP position hit a surplus of $2.029 billion, which the central bank considers a healthy level.

But while noting the downside of a declining interest rate, ING acknowledged that the trend reflected the improving market confidence in the Philippines.

Philamlife '05 profit up 44%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN LIFE AND General Insurance Co. (Philamlife) , the country's leading life insurer, said its consolidated net income grew 44 percent to P3.8 billion last year from P2.6 billion a year ago.

Philamlife also reported a record P29.5 billion in gross revenue last year, up 5.3 percent from year-ago level.

"The high net worth, Filipino-Chinese and overseas Filipino workers markets remain solid contributors to Philamlife's production. We also had a good year from our bancassurance operations," Philamlife president Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. told reporters in a briefing yesterday.

In particular, Philam Equitable Life Assurance Co. posted P989 million in total premiums in its second full-year operation. Pelac is a partnership between Philamlife and Equitable PCI Bank.

Cuisia said Pelac posted a 228-percent growth in first year premiums.

Philamlife's pre-need affiliate, Philam Plans, maintained its leading position in the pre-need industry with a 23 percent market share in new sales.

It accounted for P4.63 billion or 23 percent of the pre-need industry's total new sales of P20 billion last year.

Despite the crisis of confidence that affected the pre-need industry, Philam Plans said its trust fund assets posted a P1.8- billion surplus in 2005.

Last year, Philam Plans paid P550 million in pension , education and life benefits last year. This year, it will pay P612 million.

Philam Asset Management Inc. also posted a net income of P146.3 million last year or 13.5 percent higher than the previous year.

SMC securities sale postponed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. POSTPONED THE SALE of its hybrid perpetual securities as it ordered a probe of claims that its beverage subsidiaries had overstated their sales figures.

In a disclosure yesterday, San Miguel chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino said the company had received an "anonymous and undated letter alleging overstated sales in one of its subsidiaries, Philippine Beverage Partners Inc. (Philbev)."

Constantino said San Miguel's audit committee had initiated the investigation tob be conducted by external, independent accounting and law firms.

The total sales of Philbev was placed at 2.1 percent of SMC's group-wide sales of P227 billion.

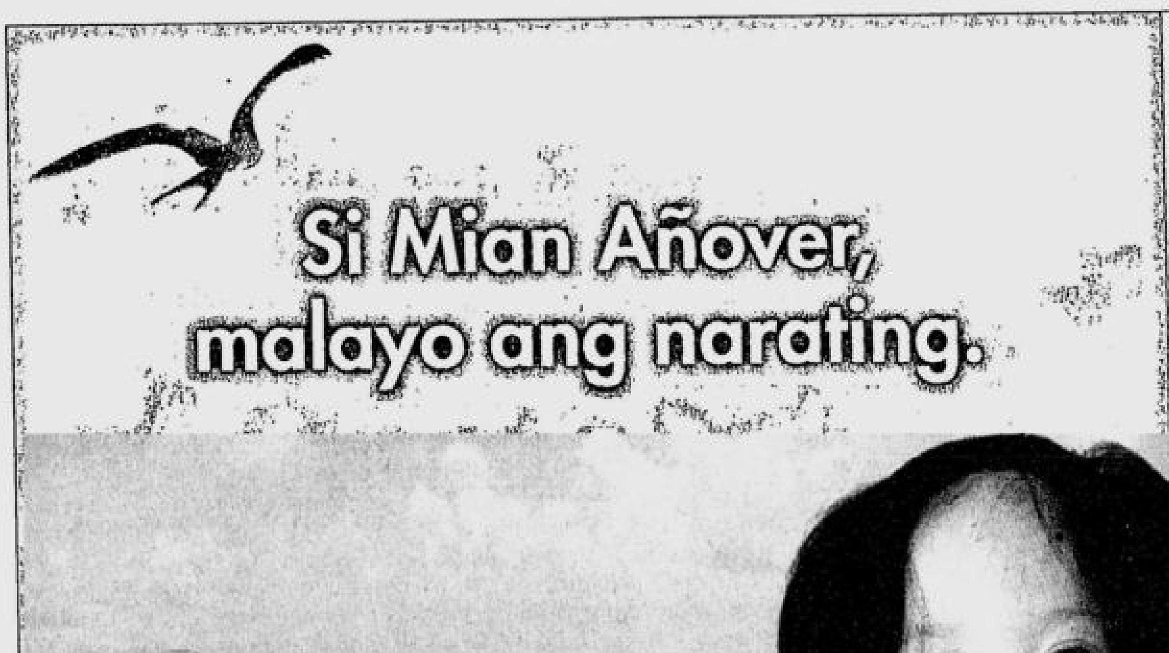
Prior to the announcement, a market source said the SMC issue had attracted more than $750 million of orders.

The deal, which will be callable in five years and at the end of each quarter thereafter, was scheduled for pricing yesterday. The source said the issue size had yet to be fixed. An e-mail sent to potential investors on Thursday said the offer would have a range of $300 million to $400 million.

The indicative yield remained at 9.0 percent for the Philippine offering, which banking sources said was the first hybrid issue from an Asian company other than financial institutions.

Citigroup, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank DE and HSBC are joint bookrunners for the offering, which is rated (P)Ba3 by Moody's Investors Service and B by Standard & Poor's.

San Miguel is 20 percent held by Japan's Kirin Brewery. *With a report from Reuters*


Si Mian Añover,
malayo ang narating.
Sa pagpapaunlad ng barangay, saludo kay Mian ang Shell.
Layunin ng Shell, malayo ang marating n'yo.

Ang Narating ni Mian Añover.

Sa kanyang layunin na maiangat ang antas ng pamumuhay sa Sitio Rustan, Barangay Langgam, San Pedro, Laguna, malayo ang narating ni Mian.

Noong 2002, namulat si Mian sa kahirapan ng Sitio Rustan nang puntahan ang libing ng asawa ng kanyang Yaya Lita na taga-roon.

Inampon ni Mian ang Sitio Rustan. Kasama ang kanyang mga kamag-anak at kaibigan, itinayo nila ang St. Josemaria Day Care Center at multi-purpose hall, nagsimula ng catechism classes at misa linggu-linggo, medical-dental missions, livelihood seminars, at mga anim na buwang feeding program. Tinulungan din nilang maayos ang mga papeles ng mga nais magpakasal at maghanap ng trabaho. Nagtayo din sila ng small lending program para sa puhunan ng iba't-ibang maliliit na negosyo.

Isang halimbawa si Mian ng tunay na pagbibigay-tulong; bukal sa kalooban, walang hanap na kapalit. Layunin ng Shell na tulad niya, malayo ang marating n'yo.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Networking against cancer

By Charles E. Buban

HE COUGHS FREquently, his breathing is labored, and the sound of his breath as he exhales is very noticeable—clear signs he is suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

But 65-year-old Soter Aytin would rather go through this lifelong and currently incurable condition than go back to a disease he has somehow managed to overcome: lung cancer.

"It has been almost three years after my doctor told me my lungs were clear of cancer. My last followup visit a month ago confirmed the same," said Aytin, who is currently taking medications and undergoing rehabilitation to manage his COPD symptoms.

According to Aytin, life after cancer is anything but ordinary.

"You will be relieved to finish treatment, yet it is hard not to worry that the cancer might come back. It may take a while before your confidence in your own recovery begins to feel real," Aytin said.

Helping others

Aytin said he did not want other people to experience what he went through: being diagnosed with cancer, endless chemotherapy and rehab sessions and the feeling of anxiety while waiting for the results of each exam.

He feels he has a responsibility to help others realize that they may be exposing themselves to risks that could lead to cancer.

"In my own little way, I urge them to quit smoking [a primary risk factor for cancer] and if there is a chance, to share my story," said Aytin.

Thus, for more than a year now, he visits malls and public places in Muntinlupa where he lives to distribute mostly home-made posters and leaflets that urge people not to smoke.

However, Aytin realized he needed the help of others to realize his goals.

"We already have cancer support groups, but it would be beneficial if our legislators sponsor a bill creating a center for cancer research and prevention. With such an agency, more people will have access to the best available treatment options," said Aytin.

Cancer network

At the moment, the closest semblance of such an agency in the Philippines is the C-Network (www.cnetwork.org.ph), an anticancer advocacy campaign established by the Department of Health, Philippine Cancer Society, a number of private and public cancer patient support groups and pharmaceutical and diagnostics company Roche (Philippines) Inc.

The C-Network is an alliance of cancer-focused individuals and organizations that seek to enhance the standards of care and education for cancer patients and their families in the Philippines, explained Dr. Gerardo Cornelio, vice president of the Philippine Society of Medical Oncologists.

3rd leading cause of death

Cornelio said the C-Network helps cultivate better relationships in the medical community, particularly those in medical associations and organizations such as the PSMO.

"This campaign is important considering that cancer—with lung and colon/rectum cancer for both sexes and breast cancer in women topping the list—is the third leading cause of death in the country next only to infectious and cardiovascular diseases," said Cornelio.

"Our current understanding of the causes of cancer is incomplete since the disease develops gradually as a result of a complex mix of factors related to environment, lifestyle and heredity," he said.

"While some people are more sensitive than others to factors that can cause cancer, scientists have estimated that about 80 percent of all cancers are related to the use of tobacco products, to what we eat and drink or, to a lesser extent, to exposure to radiation or cancer-causing agents in the environment and the workplace," he said.

Cornelio cited smoking, dietary imbalances (excess fat and calories; inadequate intake of fruits, vegetables, fiber and calcium), and chronic infections leading to chronic inflammation (from hepatitis B and C viruses) as the three main causes of cancer.

Cornelio said that through C-Network, they would be able to bring more groups and individuals together to get more information about cancer. Aytin has said that he intended to join the network to pursue his fight against the disease, and the factors that cause it.

Getting over the 'hump'

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

OSTEOPOROSIS IS A BANE OF POSTmenopausal women. I have a 59-year-old patient who says her chest pains due to her heart problem are nothing compared to her unrelenting aches and pains due to her osteoporosis. She has also been admitted twice for fractures.

Osteoporosis, which increases in frequency after menopause, is a condition wherein the bone becomes fragile due to loss of bone density. The bones turn into a porous structure that is more compressible like a sponge, rather than dense like a brick, which is the way strong, healthy bones should be.

Bone fracture is therefore a frequent complication. Osteoporotic bones can fracture with only a minor fall or injury, or even just by lifting something heavy. Some patients may develop stress fractures of the feet while just walking or stepping off a curb. A fracture can even occur during the course of normal daily activity.

The fracture can either be in the form of cracking (as in a hip fracture) or collapsing (as in a compression fracture of the vertebrae of the spine). Any skeletal bone in an osteoporotic patient can get fractured but the spine, hips and wrists are more common areas of osteoporosis-related bone fractures.

The problem with osteoporosis is that it's usually detected late, when the patient develops fractures. In such patients, osteoporosis has been there for years already with neither the patient nor her physician suspecting its presence.

Severe pain

A fractured vertebra of the spine can cause severe "band-like" pain that radiates from the back to the side of the body. The pain may not be severe enough, but if one has chronic low back pain, she should consult her doctor about it.

Osteoporosis is a strong suspect if the pain is accompanied by loss of height or curving of the spine, which gives the individual a hunched-back appearance called a "dowager hump."

There is no cure for osteoporosis, but one can prevent or retard its progression to more severe stages. Sedentary women develop osteoporosis more than others. Regular exercise can help prevent it. Weight-bearing exercises are particularly helpful, but the weight should just be light. Adequate calcium, vitamin D, and in some cases, medications are important for maintaining bone health.

Currently, bisphosphonates such as ibandronate (Bonviva), calcitonin, estrogens and parathyroid hormone are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for the prevention and/or treatment of osteoporosis.

Bone remodeling

Osteoporotic bones can be "remodeled" to make them stronger. Bone remodeling consists of two phases: bone resorption and bone formation.

During resorption, special cells on the bone's surface dissolve bone tissue and create small cavities. During formation, other cells fill the cavities with new bone tissue. When there is balance between bone resorption and formation, there is no osteoporosis. When bone resorption is faster than formation, one develops osteoporosis.

Bisphosphonates (alendronate, ibandronate and risedronate), calcitonin and estrogens act by preventing bone resorption, and are classified as antiresorptive drugs. These medications slow or stop the bone-resorbing portion of the bone-remodeling cycle but do not slow the bone-forming portion of the cycle.

Bisphosphonates prevent the breakdown of bone by cells called osteoclasts. In people who are at high risk for osteoporosis, bisphosphonates not only result in increased amounts of bone and bone strength, they also reduce the risk of hip fractures and other bone fractures. As a result, new formation continues at a greater rate than bone resorption, and bone density may increase over time.

Some preparations of these drugs may be given just once a week or even once a month as in the case of Bonviva. But it can't be overemphasized that maintaining a regular exercise is a postmenopausal woman's strong bet to prevent and retard osteoporosis.

Why it's still avian, not human, flu

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH Organization, avian flu, specifically the H5N1 strain, has been reported in birds, both wild and tame, in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa since 2003. As of April 21, the WHO has registered 204 humans who have contracted the disease; 113 of them have died from the illness.

Because those who are first on the scene are usually those who are first to be infected, it is not surprising to find that the patients have had contact with infected birds because they live and/or work with birds on a daily basis.

The WHO is quick to point out that none of the patients actually got infected by eating the birds.

Back in February, Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, WHO director general, issued a statement saying that when poultry products are safely handled and properly cooked, humans are not at risk of acquiring H5N1 infection through food.

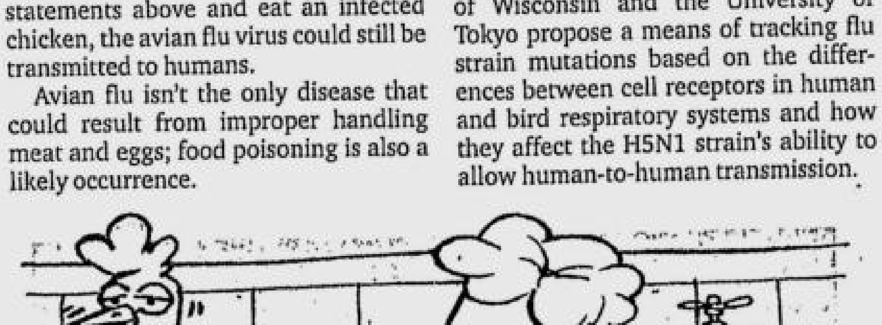
Self test

Unfortunately, scientists note in several research journals, the problem is that many people are not properly handling poultry. To find out whether or not you do, answer True or False to each statement below:

1. I eat raw poultry and/or raw eggs.
2. I chop poultry and vegetables on the same chopping board without washing the board in between.
3. I do not wash my hands after handling raw poultry.
4. I do not cook poultry thoroughly (the meat is still pink when served).
5. I do not cook eggs thoroughly (runny yolks for sunny side-up eggs).

If you answer "True" to any of the statements above and eat an infected chicken, the avian flu virus could still be transmitted to humans.

Avian flu isn't the only disease that could result from improper handling meat and eggs; food poisoning is also a likely occurrence.



Of greater concern is the notion that humans infected with the avian H5N1 flu could infect other humans.

Dr. Luis Gomes Sambo, WHO regional director for Africa, noted during the opening of the regional meeting of the United Nations systems on the avian influenza situation last March that "there would be a human influenza pandemic only if a mutated H5N1 strain emerges…which has not been the case, so far."

New research might help ease these worries.

In the March 23 issue of the journal Nature, researchers from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Tokyo propose a means of tracking flu strain mutations based on the differences between cell receptors in human and bird respiratory systems and how they affect the H5N1 strain's ability to allow human-to-human transmission.

Viruses need to enter a cell to reproduce. Receptors serve as keys that let them bind to and enter the cells. Without the receptors, a virus can't enter a cell and replicate to pass the virus onto other cells and other hosts.

Preferred receptors

The researchers found that avian viruses like the H5N1 avian flu strain prefer to bind to SAalpha 2,3Gal receptors located in the alveoli, the small air sacs at the end of the bronchi.

Humans have these same receptors, which is why the virus can be passed from animal to human. It turns out though that while human viruses can bind to these same receptors, they prefer the SAalpha 2,6Gal cell receptors in the bronchia, those long tubes that carry air into the lungs and end in alveoli.

Because the H5N1 virus can only replicate "efficiently" in the lower regions of the respiratory system, deep inside the lungs, it can't be passed on as quickly from person to person via coughing or sneezing as a virus that replicates in the upper respiratory system.

As preparations continue to be made worldwide for a possible pandemic, the research suggests a means of monitoring avian flu strain mutations. Remembering to handle the poultry and eggs properly can also go a long way toward helping prevent human-to-human transmission of the virus.

Fruits of our trees

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

DURING THE NATIONal Inventors Week, the Outstanding Creative Research Award and Philips Most Promising Invention Award went to cococoir, which came from the ubiquitous coconut husk. Our farms produce 12 billion coconut fruits (and husks) a year, and now these could be put to even better use.

Made from fibers and pith of the coconut husk, the cococoir board is made without using any synthetic binder. Because of its high lignin content, cococoir has a natural binder. The Forest Products Research & Development Institute (FPRDI) and the Netherlands' Agrotechnology and Food Innovations is now studying the commercial viability of this technology, backed by the UN Common Fund for Commodities.

According to researcher Dwight Eusebio, the boards are stronger than many particle boards and because they are "binderless," they are expected to be much cheaper. Hopefully, the product can eventually displace the *lawanit* which we import at millions of dollars a year

Local wood industry

Tree farmers and wood processors in Compostela Valley are involved in the Integrated Woodworking Development Project to produce wood-based products from gmelina and other fast-growing trees. These products can be made into school desks, poles, pallets, furniture and lumber. Sponsored by the DOST, DTI, and DENR, the project aims to revitalize Southern Mindanao's wood industry.

The Mabini Industrial Tree Plantation will serve as the anchor firm to small tree farmers and woodworking companies that will join the project. It has equipment and facilities and holds an Industrial Forest Management Agreement license for an area of 4,000 hectares.

"Southern Mindanao's vibrant wood industry collapsed in the early 1980s due to scarce raw materials. This is no longer a problem as the government's reforestation program resulted in an influx of available wood, such as gmelina from tree farms and industrial plantations. We see this project as the key to revive the industry, bring income to tree farmers, and jobs to thousands in Compostela Valley and nearby provinces," said FPRDI deputy director Dominador Alonzo.

Cashew nut

More good news: The liquid from the shell of the cashew nut has been widely used in India and Brazil to produce products such as brake lining of motor vehicles, industrial belts and clutches, heat- and water-proof paints, corrosion-resistant stove varnishes and special quality lacquers, electric cables and heavy-duty grinding and cutting discs.

These applications are practically unknown here, but fortunately our chemists are currently studying ways to make the most out of the cashew nut. Researcher Mildred Fidel reports, "We found that the properties of local materials meet international standards."

The country produces 120 million kg of cashew nuts and 20 million kilos of their precious liquid a year.

Lastly, congratulations to Undersecretary Fortunato T. dela Peña, who received the Outstanding Career Executive Officer and Dangal ng Bayan award. He played a key role in formulating the National Science and Technology Plan for 2002 to 2020 and in instituting several e-Governance programs, like the e-Library project (which modernizes the National Library and the libraries of the DOST, Department of Agriculture, and Commission on Higher Education).

His projects are "citizen-centric and user-friendly," including Pagasa's Interactive Climate and Weather Information Network. I have the good fortune of serving on the editorial board of the Philippine Journal of Science, which he chairs, and I am impressed by his dynamism and professionalism.

These news bits were excerpted from pieces given by the Science and Technology News Service. My thanks to Rizalina Araral and Framelia Anonas. *email: blessbook@yahoo.com*

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Baby face no more

WHEN MY LITTLE BOY GOT HIS FRONT teeth at 7, he lost his baby face looks. Is this normal?—Shirely D.

At age 6 to 9, the child's larger permanent front teeth start to erupt. As a result, there is more vertical growth of the facial skeleton on the upper part of the face, with the lower part giving way to a more longer facial shape compared to the previously round face. The face takes on a different dimension so your child loses his baby face. It's a transition from cute to a more mature look. Expect more skeletal changes as he gets older.

AirAsia's Super Deals promo

AIRASIA, THE LEADING AND LARGEST LOW FARE airline in Asia, have launched its biggest online campaign at www.airasia.com; unveiling an exciting range of super low fare deals beginning from RM0.99. Guests can look forward to plan and book their travel early to take advantage of the irresistible low fare deals, even during festive seasons. In fact bookings on all AirAsia's domestic and international flights in the Super Deals promotions can also be made for travel right up to March 2007. Looking for good travel packages with offers you value for money? In conjunction with the Super Deals promotions, AirAsia's Go Holiday Travel Packages are available from RM78 per person. Check out goholiday.airasia.com for more details. The AirAsia Super Deals promotion is only valid for online purchase at www.airasia.com, and available for booking from April 18 to 30 for travel from June 15, 2006 to March 24, 2007. It is recommended that guests book early to avoid any disappointment as promotional fares are usually taken up quickly.

PSO-HNS midyear confab

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY Head and Neck Surgery, Bicol Chapter will be hosting the Golden Midyear Convention with the theme: "Surgical and Medical Breakthrough", on April 27 to 29 at Casablanca Convention Center in Legazpi City. This affair is a big achievement for the Bicol Chapter considering that it only has 15 members, one of the smallest and youngest chapters nationwide.

Made interior design contest

THE METROBANK FOUNDATION, IN PARTNERSHIP with Federal Land, the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, United Architects of the Philippines, and BluPrint, is inviting all registered interior designers 25 to 45 years old to join the Metrobank Art & Design Excellence National Competition or Made. Entries should be conceptual designs for a tri-level housing unit using the principle of sustainability, whereby materials used are not manufactured in exploitative ways, to create a man-made habitat that mutually co-exist with the flourishing of nature. Two finalists will be chosen to execute their design, which will be separately sponsored by Federal Land, and will vie for the Grand Prize of 150,000 pesos to be awarded by the foundation. Submission of entries starts April until May 12, at the PIID Secretariat, 8/f, Filomena Bldg., 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. For queries, call 898-8856 (Metrobank Foundation) or 867-1404 (PIID). Entry forms are available in all Metrobank branches and at the PIID Secretariat. Awarding ceremonies and exhibit will be in September.

TCNHS Alumni Homecoming

THE TAGUM CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (TC-NHS) High School Class of 1980 is pleased to host the 13th Alumni Homecoming on Sunday, May 7, 1 p.m. at the school campus in Sitio Mangga, Visayan Village, Tagum City. The annual event, with this year's theme "Doing Its Humble Share Towards Community Development", is expected to bring together the 36 batches that have graduated from the school since its foundation in 1967. The event will be highlighted by the recognition/awarding of TCNHS alumni with exemplary performance/achievement in the community and field of expertise as well as awarding of plaque of appreciation/recognition to the GPTA prexy and retiring 2006 TCNHS faculty-2005 Bar passers and TCNHS alumni achievers. There will be a motorcade at 1 p.m., to be followed by a Mass after which the registration will take place then at 3:30 p.m. the Programme Proper will start. To find out more about the homecoming, call lawyer Luel Mendez at 0917-7053797 and Marissa M. Ordoñez at 0921-4040478. "Tara na, magkitaay, magkumustahay ug magtapok-tapok!"

The St. Francis Towers' US Road Show kicks off May 5

THE ST. FRANCIS TOWERS, THE KUOK GROUP'S 2nd self-funded residential condominium project, will be formally launched in the U.S. via a Road Show which will kick off in Los Angeles at the Marriott Los Angeles Downtown on May 5 at 6 p.m. The Road Show will take the St. Francis Sales Team led by Susan Yu, director of sales, to Glendale at the Glendale Hilton, 6 p.m., May 9; City of Industry, Pacific Palms Conference Resort, 6 p.m., May 11; Cerritos, Sheraton Cerritos Hotel & Towne Center, 6 p.m., May 12; San Diego, Town & Country Convention Resort, 6 p.m., May 15; Las Vegas, Suncoast Hotel & Casino, 3 p.m., May 19; Seattle, Grand Hyatt Seattle, 6 p.m., Chicago, Marriott O'Hare, 6 p.m., May 25; New Jersey, Hyatt Regency Jersey City on the Hudson, 9 a.m., May 27; Orlando, Hyatt Regency Orlando, 9 a.m., June 3. In Northern California: Burlingame, Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport, 6 p.m., June 8; Santa Clara Marriott, June 16, 6 p.m. and the Courtyard Marriott in Vallejo. Filipino-Americans who will sign up on the spot will get a chance to win free hotel stays in Makati Shangri-La, Edsa Shangri-La, Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort & Spa and Traders Hotel. For more information, call 634-8080 or 634-8111 or toll-free 1-800-592-0609 (from the US) or log on to www.thestfrancistowers.com.

Cotton Stuff Baby promo

COTTON STUFF BABY, A PREMIER RETAILER OF infants' clothing and other essentials offers its summer promo that gives shoppers the chance to take home a limited edition 10-piece Baby Essentials Gift Set worth over P1,300. A minimum single receipt purchase of P100 from Cotton Stuff branches located at the Infant's Wear Section of 20 SM Department Stores entitles the shopper to one tracking card. Each time an additional P100 worth of items is purchased, shoppers will receive a stamp on the card. Once ten stamps have been accumulated, simply surrender the card and the Cotton Stuff Baby Essentials Gift Set is yours for free. The limited edition gift set contains a t-shirt, diaper pants, bodysuit, bib, leggings, burp cloth, booties, mittens and 2 pieces of washcloth. Tracking cards may be claimed from April 1 to 30, while stamps and the gift set may be redeemed from April 1 to June 1.

Novia launches Mark & Kenneth via men's forum

IN ITS ADVOCACY TO AROUSE ENTREPRENEURIAL courage, Novia - one of the fastest growing business networks in the country - launches additional line of skin care products specifically formulated for men. Branded as Mark & Kenneth, these products are made of organic and natural ingredients and will be launched through a men's forum dubbed as "Men: Exposed" on April 29 at Maku Hari Entertainment Center in Malate. With coach Ryan Gregorio of Purefoods, as one of the panelists, the forum is expected to enlighten the audience on the things that challenge and confront Filipino men.

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS

BICOLANO WINS P100,000 IN MINOLA PROMO

Emmanuel Borillo from Daraga, Albay wins P100,000 in the first weekly draw of Minola's Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minola promo. Borillo's winning number came from a purchase of the takal-tingi pack. The winning number combination was picked by Dr. Tony V. Concepcion - VP for domestic marketing, and lawyer Narciso P. Nario, VP for corporate services. The draw was supervised by BFAD Representative Julie Aguihap. The Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minola is an on-going text promo of Minola Cooking Oil. Consumers can send in their entries by keying in the unique code found on Minola packs. There will be 16 weekly winners of P100,000 each and a grand draw winner of P1 million. Promo runs until August 8.

UMC ANNOUNCES 5-YEAR PLAN

Universal Motors Corp (UMC) revealed in a press briefing their 5-year plan including the introduction of 8 new models, 3 of which are replacement models and 5 are completely new lines which includes a good mix of full SUV, MPV/ crossover, vans/ mini van and pick-up trucks. In photo are UMC president Richard L. Lee, Nissan Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (NAP) vice president Toshimitsu Nose (representing Nissan Global) and UMC senior vice president for marketing Elizabeth H. Lee.

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Dad, a day isn't a day without your daily dose of news. So here's one that's sure to make the headlines:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD!!!

From: Mommy, Akang, Iking, Chino, Caloy, Arnold, Toto, Linda, Mel, Inday

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
on the Fifth Death Anniversary of

VIRGINIA C. SY GRAPILON

(January 03, 1949 - April 29, 2001)
of
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro;
Pawikan, Cabucgayan, Biliran;
Carigara, Leyte

Her surviving spouse, jag; children **René** and **Miranda (nee de Quiroz)** and **Raúl**; parents **Santos** (†) and **Esperanza Sy**; parents-in-law **Ex-Mayor Herculano** (†) and **Rosario** (†) **Aguila Grapilon**; sisters **Mely** and **Dr. Ely** and brother-in-law **Engr. Omar Costibolo**, brother **Engr. Danny**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law **Atty. Jun** and **Baby Lagunzad**, **Atty. Fe Aguila Grapilon** (†), **Engr. Jess** (†) and **Paz Sabay**, **Leo** (†) and **Atty. Fidelyn Grapilon**; her relatives request her friends and those who loved her and became part of her life to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

VIRGILIO C. MARIANO

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 26, 2006 at the age of 73.

His body lies in state
at the Loyola Memorial Chapel,
Guadalupe. Interment will be
announced later.

"Our Dearly Beloved"

RAMONA TAN DE VEYRA

of Tacloban, Samar and Tamaraw, Leyte
who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on April 23, 2006.

Her husband **Manoling**; children and grandchildren ask for your sympathy through your prayers.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 3, 2006.

Death Notice

JOFFRE CABALLERO MENDOZA

Born March 6, 1917 - Died April 26, 2006

He is survived by Fidel & Amelia Siapno, Erwin & Priscilla Walser; grandchildren Michaelangelo & Marie Antonette, Rev. Fr. Raphael, Gabriel & Ma. Gracia, Ma. Angelica, Jennifer, Jeffrey; and great-grandchildren Patricia, Pamela, and Isabella.

His brothers, sisters, their families and relatives request to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Funeral Mass will be on May 3, 2006 at 9 a.m. at St. Raphael Parish Church, Legazpi City, Albay. Interment follows at Bicol Memorial Park.

CARMEN S. ROCO

Falecio en la gracia de Dios
25 April 2006
ala edad 95

Sus desconsolados: sobrina; **Chiqui**, nietos **Rica, Chas, JR y Charo**, bisnietos. **Ronnie y Adon**, sobrinos y demas familia ruegan una oracion por el eterno descanso de su alma. Esta de cuerpo presente en la Iglesia Holy Trinity Parish, Chapin St., Ideal subd., Capitol Hills, Quezon City

El entierro sera 2:00 p.m., Domingo, Abril 30, 2006, North Cemetery, Mausoleo Roco, La Loma.

More Classified Ads on Pages A23, A24, B2-2 & B2-3

OBITUARIES

"Oh, that men would give thanks to
the Lord for His goodness."
Psalm 107:8

Rita Bolisay Talavera

of
Gen. Tinio Nueva Ecija and Cabanatuan City

has joined her Creator and
her beloved husband Teofilo H. Talavera, Sr.
on April 27, 2006 at the age of 101.

She is survived by her children; **Gabriela** and **Felix Santos** †, **Ret. Judge Teofilo, Jr.** and **Dr. Aurea Reyes**, **Trinidad** and **Rodolfo Janolo**, **Carmen** and **Godofredo Velayo**, **Elsa** and **Fredesvindo Ramoso**, **Judge Tomas** and **Leticia Binuya**, **Linda** and **Lorenzo Aleta** † and **Engr. Teofilo III** and **Dr. Estrella Galvez**, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the **Knights of Columbus Hall**, Burgos Avenue (in front of Nueva Ecija National High School NENHS) Cabanatuan City. Interment will take place at the **Sagrada Familia Memorial Park** on **May 02, 2006, Tuesday** after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at the St. Nicholas Cathedral, Cabanatuan City.

Meat firms commit to hold off price increases

Low-end products to be spared from adjustments

By Christine A. Gaylican

MEAT MANUFACTURERS HAVE committed to keep prices of their affordable products, but said they might be forced to increase prices of their high-end products by at least 25 centavos due to soaring prices of tin plates.

This was disclosed by the Philippine Association of Meat Processors of the Philippines Inc. (Pampi), whose 32 member-companies include San Miguel Foods Corp., Purefoods-Hormel, Swift Foods Inc. and CDO-Foodsphere Inc.

Virginia Foods Inc. and Pampi president Felix O. Tiukinhoy Jr. said in an interview that the industry has committed to hold off increases in the prices of their affordable line of canned meat products, such as corned beef, and frozen meat products, such as hotdogs in the next three months.

However, if tin plate importers would again increase their prices, the meat processing industry would have to jack up prices of their high-end line, said Francisco Buencamino, Pampi executive director.

Tiukinhoy said the meat processing industry could only commit to absorb additional costs due to the increase in the expanded value added tax.

He said that 65 percent of their products target the C, D, and E income segments.

"We could not afford to lose these market segments, [we] would rather absorb the cost," Buencamino said.

Pampi's 32 meat processing companies have combined annual revenues of P65 billion.

Commercial poultry raisers are also holding back price increases for fear of losing more sales.

The Philippine Association Broiler Integrators Inc. has thus urged the government to consider suspending the implementation of the expanded Value Added Tax.

"It would be of help to the industry because as of now, we could not afford to loose the market that would further scale down our profitability," said Pabi president Rita Imelda Palabyab.

Pabi, whose members include San Miguel Foods Corp.,Universal Robina Corp., RFM-Swift Foods Corp., Tyson AgriVentures, account for 70 percent of local poultry supply.

FOODS
Corned Beef
FOODS
Corned Beef

HIGHER tin can prices may lead to an increase in prices of high-end canned goods.

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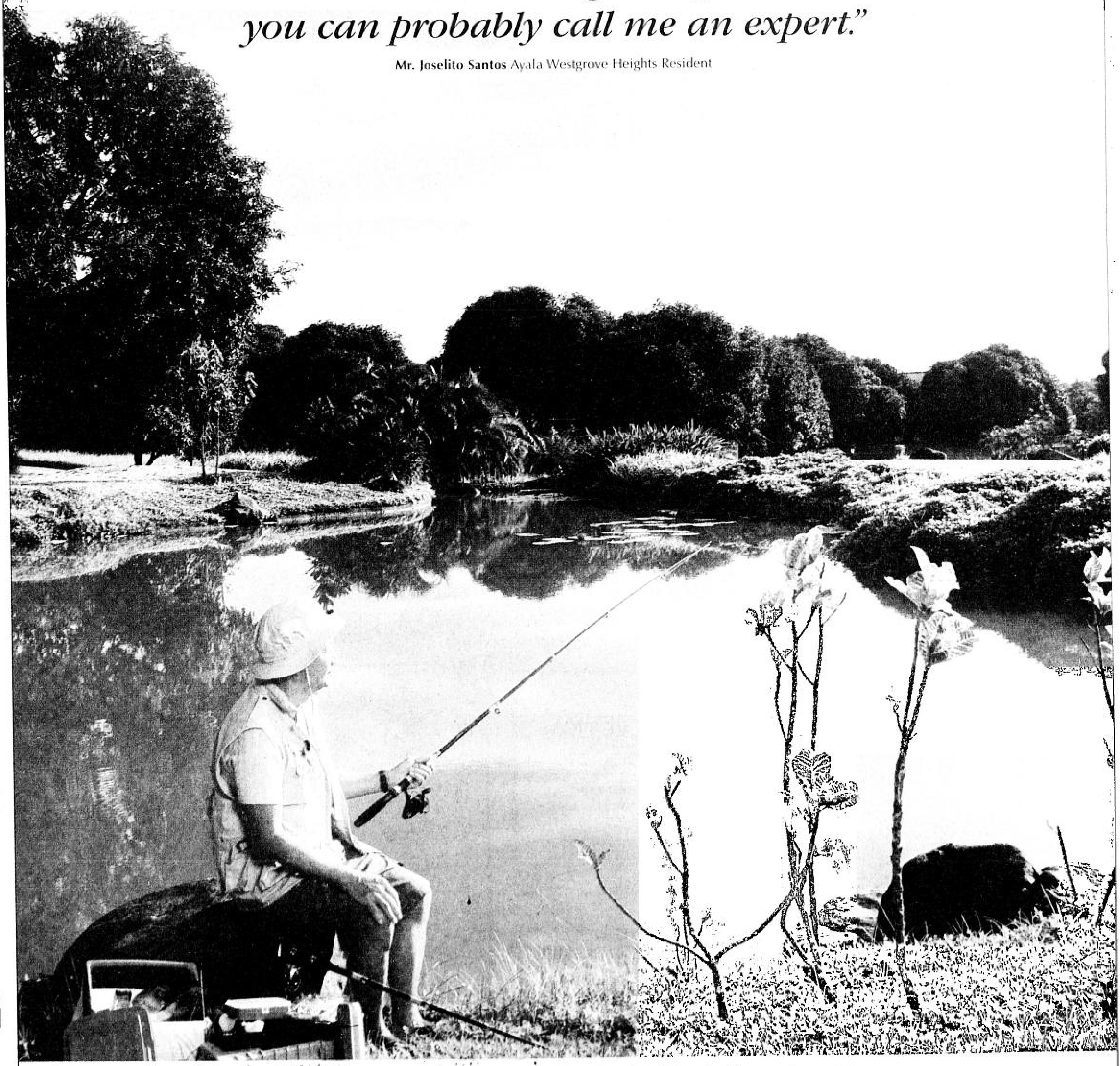
Mr. Joselito Santos Ayala Westgrove Heights Resident



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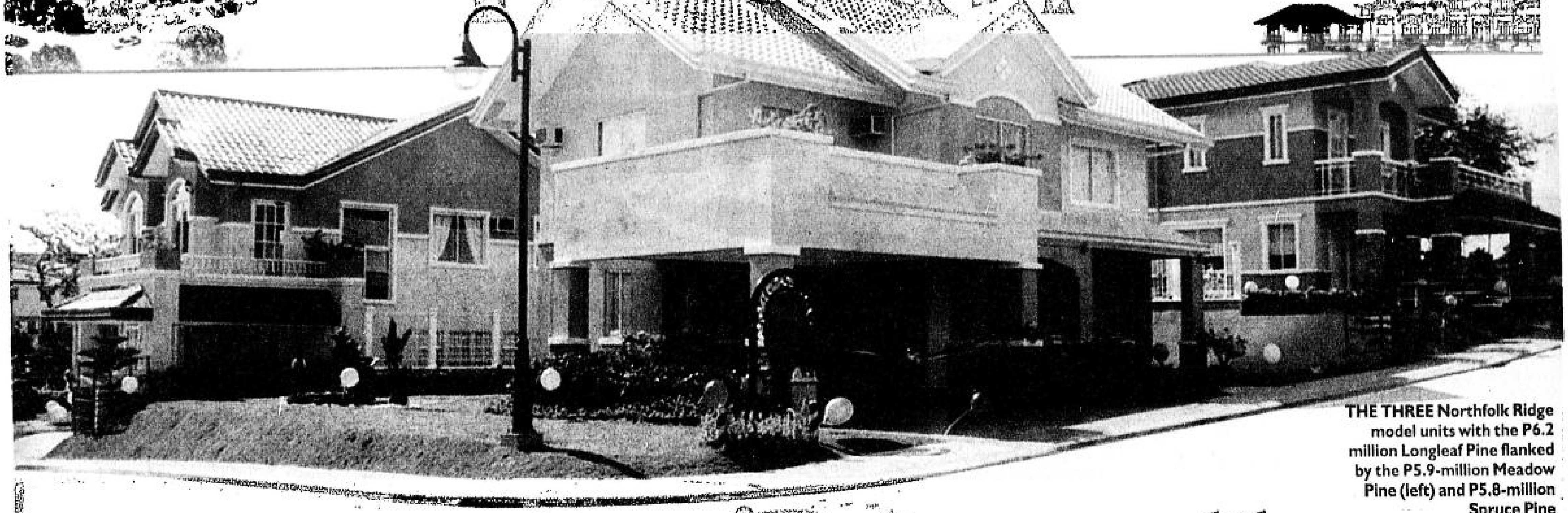
Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**



THE THREE Northfolk Ridge model units with the P6.2 million Longleaf Pine flanked by the P5.9-million Meadow Pine (left) and P5.8-million Spruce Pine

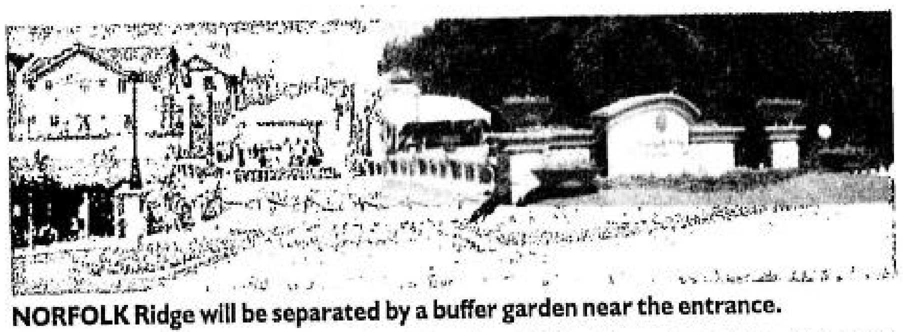
Jardine Land tapping into steadily growing demand for upscale homes

By Charles E. Buban

HOME DEVELOPER Jardine Land is tapping into an increasing demand for high-end residential homes in its Greenwoods Village, a predominantly middle market community in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Orlando Diaz, Jardine Land VP for sales and marketing, believes that the time is also right for an upscale housing development like Norfolk Ridge Residential Estate to be built within the Greenwoods Village vicinity.

"I think that it's a good opportunity right now. For the past years we are being swamped with inquiries about home packages whose prices are already in the upscale range," he reports.



NORFOLK Ridge will be separated by a buffer garden near the entrance.

Norfolk Ridge would offer only 132 house and lot packages.

More quality homes

"We noticed that more than the price consideration, homebuyers now want more quality homes—meticulous workmanship, materials used as well as the architectural design. We are providing all of these at Norfolk Ridge," Diaz assures.

There will be three models available: the P6.2-million, two-story, three-bedroom Longleaf Pine (with 187-sq-m total floor area on 225-sq-m lot), the P5.9 two-story, three-bedroom Meadow Pine (with 181-sq-m total floor area on 165-sq-m lot), and the P5.8-million two-story, three-bedroom Spruce Pine (with 170-sq-m total floor area on a 150-sq-m lot)).

In comparison, Greenwoods Village home packages go up to around P4 million.

"Not only bigger and more elegant houses, a high-end development like Norfolk Ridge has to be in a good location with interesting features," Diaz says.

Buffer garden

For Jardine Land's latest project, its 3.77-hectare area is located adjacent to the west boundary of Greenwoods Village's phase one and a buffer garden at the entrance was developed to separate the whole property to the rest of the village.

The buffer will also serve as a breathing space where residents could stroll or meditate.

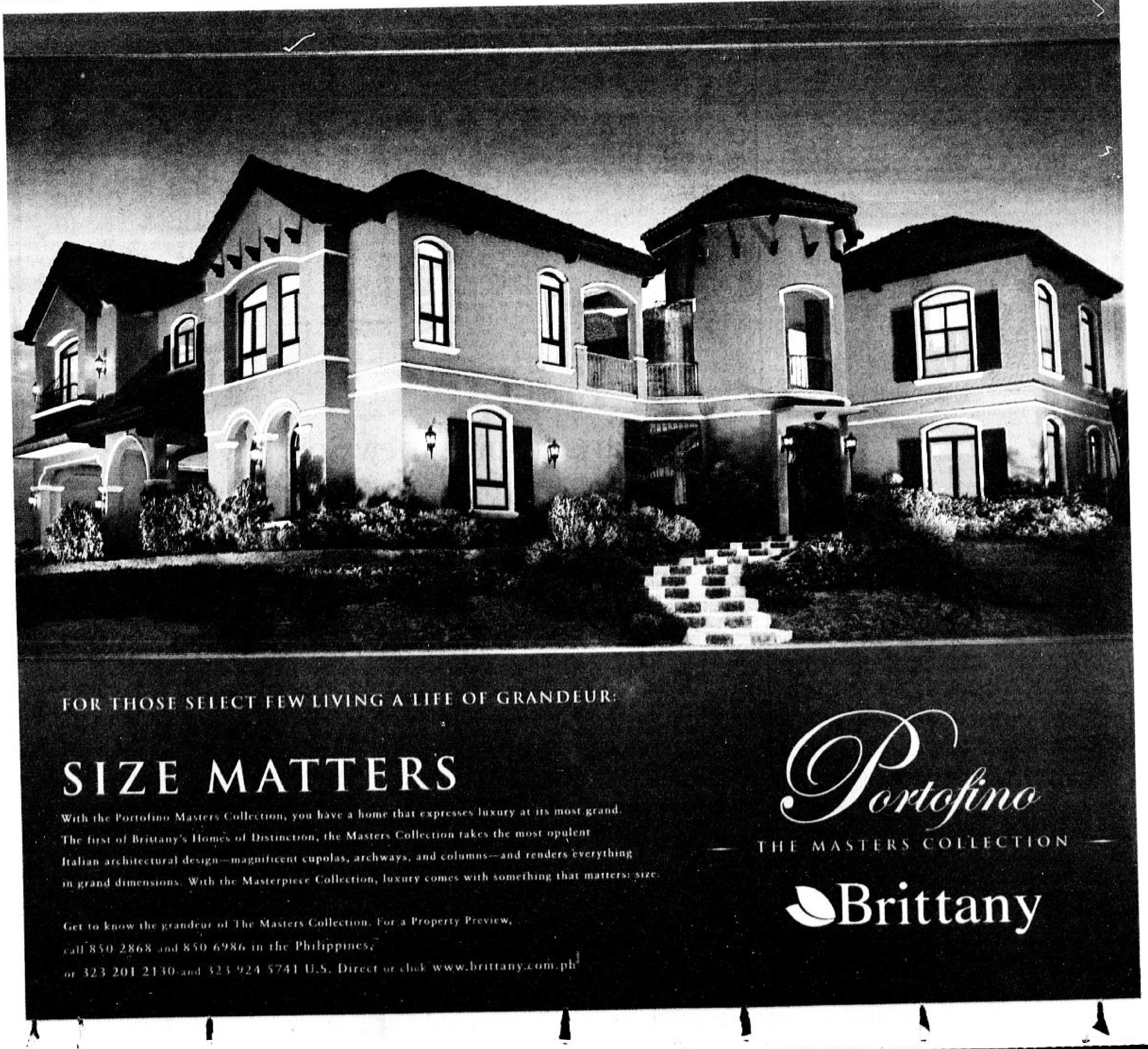
"Even while we are still developing Greenwoods Village, we saw this portion of the land as very unique for developing an exclusive enclave. It's surrounded by lots of trees and its topography is just perfect for the kind of an upscale gated community we are envisioning," Diaz says.

Access to amenities

He adds that future residents of Norfolk Ridge will be given access to Greenwoods Village's already existing amenities and facilities, including sports and leisure centers, basketball court and dayspring gardens (amphitheater, footbridge and fishing area).

"And if the resident want to go out, Norfolk Ridge is near recreational establishments like the Enchanted Kingdom, and is just a short distance away from fine beaches of Caylabne, Puerto Azul or first-class golf courses Southwoods, Riviera, Orchard and Tagaytay Highlands," shared Diaz.

Jardine Land, with its development subsidiary, Jardine Properties Inc. is a joint venture formed by five leading companies: Jardine Davies Inc., San Miguel Properties, Hong Kong Land, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Equitable Bank.



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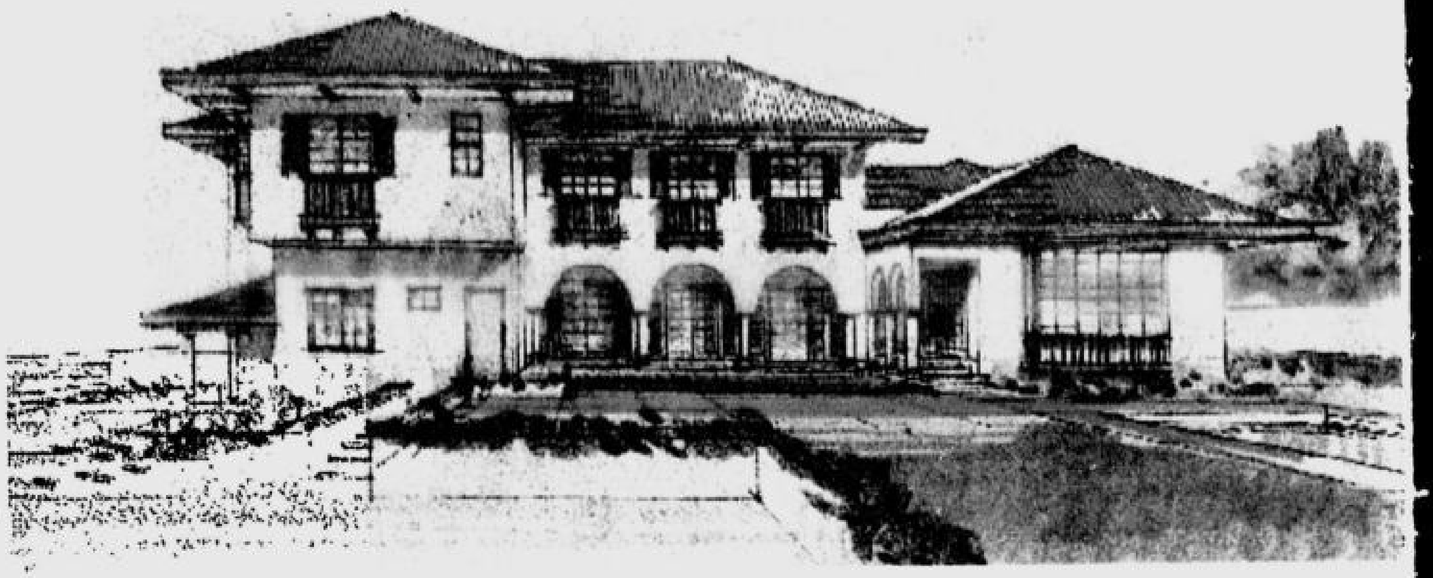


AN EAST-WEST orientation on the long axis of the house provides minimal solar exposure. This house in Green Meadows designed for local climate enjoys large window and door openings for natural lighting and good ventilation. The use of local wood and other green materials contribute to a healthy home environment.

A.P. DE JESUS & ASSOCIATES

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

MANY COUNTRIES ARE NOW "GOING green." The phrase, which suggests environmental awareness, is a topic hotly debated in various sectors due to its impact on the people and the environment. These countries are concerned with many issues such as how their buildings and homes use energy, how their health is affected by staying indoors for extended periods, how trees and vegetation improve their quality of life and how they can continue using up the earth's resources without depleting them. In many cases lawmakers, green advocates and ordinary people clash as they debate on these pressing issues.

Unfortunately, many of the people in this country, from various economic and social levels, are indifferent to these environmental concerns. This is very tragic. Our environmental woes will not disappear if we turn our backs on them. They will only get worse. People simply have to know what "going green" means to get started.

Change way of thinking

There are several steps to start making your home green. The first step, probably the hardest for most people, is changing one's way of thinking. "Going green" means, accepting the notion that there is a better way of doing things, especially in relation to what we do to the environment. We must be aware that everything we do has a direct impact on our surroundings. What we must do is to minimize that impact, to allow us to "sit lightly" on the land.

This also means learning to adopt new technologies that are now available to help improve our lives while protecting the environment. These may not necessarily be high-tech innovations. Basic principles like providing light-colored roofing to allow solar heat to bounce off, thermal insulation and exhaust outlets in ceilings to allow hot air to flush out, are green strategies that can be easily adopted. Or it can be as simple as adding a roof overhang on a west-facing window. Investing in some of these technologies also translate into monetary savings in the long run from reduced energy costs.

What strategies to adopt

The next step is to determine what green strategies to adopt. This may not be as difficult as it sounds. In some cases, the answer may be quite obvious. If water is a problem in the area, then water recycling or rainwater harvesting may be the top priority. If the goal is to reduce energy consumption, it may mean switching from incandescent lamps to the more efficient compact fluorescent lamps or CFL. If replacing several lamps cannot be done at one time, then it can be done gradually.

Another way is to replace power-hungry appliances, like old refrigerators and airconditioners. Obviously, budget constraints will dictate what should be the priorities in this area.

Analyze payback

After determining what green strategies to adopt, the next step is to analyze the payback period or the number of years it will take for a strategy to be economically worthwhile.

Savings can be derived for example from the drop in energy consumption by switching from incandescent lamps to compact fluorescent lamps. Studies for a typical urban household have shown that this strategy can mean monthly savings equivalent to a month's water bill.

Monitor your savings

Once the systems are in place, the next step is to take note of your savings. This step is crucial since it will help maintain the efficiency initiative that has been started. This will also help protect the investments as the new measures are evaluated. Again, this need not be difficult to do.

A simple comparison of the monthly water and electricity bills with that of the previous month's billings will reveal how effective the strategies are, irrespective of whether the savings were derived from the additional roof insulation or the replacement of an old air-conditioning unit.

Consider health benefits

When analyzing the return on investment of any of the strategies, other factors should also be considered like improved building comfort and improved quality of life.

For example, by ensuring that the home is well-ventilated, thermal comfort is attained and what's more, toxic elements that may have accumulated from interior furnishings and finishes can be flushed out. In many cases natural ventilation can easily be derived by simply providing openings at both ends of the home where air flow is unimpeded.

Our health can also be affected by electropollution caused by the wiring that runs around our home as well as the type of appliances and gadgets that we use. If we constantly surround ourselves with these electronic devices, especially in our bedrooms, we are exposing ourselves unnecessarily to electromagnetic waves, a leading concern of reliable studies that point out its link with high incidence of illness and cancer.

Home's value

Aside from health benefits, a home's value is increased when green strategies and measures are installed.

The health and economic benefits become attractive to would-be tenants and buyers if and when the owners have to move somewhere else.

Behavioral attitude

Habits or lifestyles of people can also have a direct impact on how green our homes can be. For example, it is very impractical to wear thick clothing simply because our room is air-conditioned, instead of maintaining a slightly warmer temperature while wearing lighter clothes. An electric fan may be enough to cool a room when the weather is not too hot.

Another habit for some people is to fill up the bathtub with gallons of water so they can cool off to avoid the summer heat. Perhaps a more efficient and practical way would be to take a shower to cut down on the use of water. Or one can use the nearest swimming pool facilities.

Growing exotic plants and maintaining large areas of grass, especially blue grass or Bermuda grass, that use up enormous quantities of water is not a green practice.

Integrated approach

While keeping our own heritage of regional styles and individual characteristics, we can aim to make our homes healthy by staying in contact with fresh air, sunlight and good views. Green homes are sited and designed with local climate in mind. They are resource efficient and place little demands on the earth by not wasting energy and water.

Healthy homes have good indoor air quality largely due to sustainable design and green building materials used. This healing type of architecture is absolutely destined to be the wave of the future.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

Enjoying your home minus those irksome termites

LIVING IN A POSH SUBDIVISION doesn't guarantee that one will enjoy a pest-free existence in that environment. Lourdes Dosch didn't notice the termites gorging on her 40-year-old house until it was almost too late. One such sign of infestation was the surprisingly weak living room floor, which has resulted in some embarrassing incidents.

"It got so bad already, you'd be afraid to walk on my old wooden floor with high heels," she shares.

Culprits

As one of the original houses in that Makati village, the Dosch residence has had its share of renovation and redesigning. But Lourdes took the problem seriously when the family discovered the culprits to their weakened floor.

Says Lourdes: "When we were renovating, we discovered the termites. They were taking out sections of the house. They're insidious, those things. I was afraid they would get to my paintings!"

She discovered that some pesticides, however, were merely stopgaps to this relentless series of attacks. But she worried that these chemicals with sickening residual odors might harm her family and their menagerie of dogs, cats and fish.

"Before, I would get rid of termites for a few months with other means, mostly sprays, and they would appear again," she says. "They would be effective at the start, and after a while they wouldn't work anymore. I'd get frustrated again. I was also scared that my pets would be harmed."

Recommended

She looked into an option that some of her friends recommended. "I was asking around about Sentricon, and after much contemplation and shopping around, I decided to get it," Lourdes recounts. "They were advertising it in the newspapers. Now, I think it's worth it because after a few months, they were all gone. I promised them new customers, and I got them to try it. It was really effective and it's worth the money."

According to Gladez Ilao-Talavera, sales manager of Dow AgroSciences, there are six different types of termites in the Philippines, but only one kind was responsible for this particular onslaught. Says Gladez: "The very destructive Coptotermes Vastator or commonly known as 'Philippine milk termite' became Lourdes's problem. When they eat, nothing is left of the wood. From the surface, you might assume that the wood is healthy. But when you knock on them, they're already hollow because they've been eaten away. Their infestation is very rapid. Almost 80 to 90 percent of urban areas are infested by this termite species."

She adds that Sentricon's unique Colony Elimination System effectively baited these termites at a carefully monitored stations. Once termites start feeding in the stations, they will spread the bait to the whole colony. The bait contains a substance that prevents the molting process of termites so they can't grow. In time all termites in the colony will be affected by the bait and die.

Major investment

"It's a major investment, so you have to choose the right applicators, or authorized pest control operators," Gladez explains. "You also have to look at the value of the house. If they're just going to use spraying methods, or they're going to hire someone who's not technically capable of handling new baiting products, then the investment will be wasted. We encourage property owners to look for the Sentricon authorized operators."

Dow AgroSciences, she further explains, is a world-renowned company that has high standards and is therefore very strict with qualified applicators. "They have undergone extensive training," she says. "These technicians have regular updates; those who cannot handle Sentricon components won't be able to pass them. Sentricon operators have to undergo another process of exams after passing their Fertilizer and Pesticide training. If homeowners want to confirm if the technicians who work on their homes are authorized, then we can present their authorization certificates."

Accredited

One such accredited technician/sales representative of Vira Pest Inc. is Melvin Sanchez who surveyed the Dosch property three years ago, and discovered considerable damage at the back of the house and at the front door. "We recommended the Sentricon system because liquid pesticides would just endanger her pets," Melvin discloses. "I explained to Mrs. Dosch the benefits of using Sentricon, and three months after we installed the baiting technology, the results were good. During inspections, we noticed that the termites were gradually being eliminated inside the baits, and their movements have noticeably slowed down. The active ingredients killed them all. After one year, the contract was renewed for the future protection and monitoring of the property." Vira Pest (tel. 728-3174, 834-2494 and 728-4545) is Sentricon authorized operator.

TransCo

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Service Contract for the Parcellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Survey of the Affected Main/Sub-lots of Kirahon - Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project
Ref. No. PB060202-PP0008

1. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)***, through the ***CY2006 Corporate Budget*** intends to apply the sum of P4,320,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***Service Contract for the Parcellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Survey of the Affected Main/Sub-lots of Kirahon - Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project / PR No. ESD-06-000013813***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The *TransCo* now calls for the submission of ***Letters of Intent (LOIs)*** from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for ***Science Contract for the Parcellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Survey of the Affected Main/Sub-lots of Kirahon - Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project***. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before ***May 14, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*** at ***the address below*** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom by paying the nonrefundable fee of Php500.00. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: ***May 15, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.*** at ***the address below***. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted ***LOIs*** and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The criteria and rating system for short listing are:
   - *(a) Applicable Experience of the Firm* - *40 Points*
   - *(b) Qualification of Personnel to be Assigned to the Job* - *30 Points*
   - *(c) Current Workload Relative to Capacity and Equipment Capability* - *30 Points*

   Note : The bidder/s who shall meet the minimum score of 70 points shall be included in the short list, provided that the bidder/s meets the required minimum requirement/s in any of the above criteria. Bidder/s who fail to meet the minimum requirement/s in any of the above criteria will get a zero (0) point on the said criteria and said bidder/s shall be automatically disqualified.
4. ***LOIs*** must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below ***from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*** on or before ***May 14, 2006.***
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. The PROCURING ENTITY shall evaluate bids using the ***Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS)*** procedure. The PROCURING ENTITY *shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals*. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from *TransCo* at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
7. The contract shall be completed within ***one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of acceptance of Purchase Order***.
8. *TransCo* reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. OSCAR M. CAMERINO
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2206 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) OSCAR M. CAMERINO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – April 29 & May 5, 2006)

Lovely Paris inspires new South Forbes project

PARIS, MANY PEOPLE SAY, IS THE most romantic city in the world. The sweet aroma of love permeates the whole city. A sparkling glass of red wine caps lunch with a beloved. A candlelight dinner is best reserved at the glitzy Ritz. And of course, a passionate kiss can be exchanged at the top of the Eiffel Tower amid the glittering lights of Paris' enchanting nightscape.

The romantic atmosphere of Paris will soon be experienced here in the country with the launch of South Forbes Golf City's newest project, Châteaux de Paris. Said Cathay Land president Jeffrey Ng: "Our newest innovative project at South Forbes will feature homes inspired by the grandeur of the lovely city of Paris. Sprawling gardens will be reminiscent of Paris' landscaped parks and flowers from all colors of the spectrum."

Strong dramatic approach

Residents enter Châteaux de Paris through a main gate that provides a strong dramatic approach. Cobblestone paving, formal rows of trees, and a feature wall along the approach immediately bring about the feeling of a French-inspired development. A fountain at the middle of the gate and abundant lighting at night to accentuate the property are other French design concepts that have been incorporated in the plans.

Three model chateaus—Chambord, Fontainebleau and Chantilly—all named after famous royal chateaus in Paris, will make homebuyers appreciate and fall in love with all things French. Chambord will feature interiors reminiscent of traditional Parisian elements such as intricate drawings. Fontainebleau will have modern furnishings, thus featuring straight lines, while Chantilly will have a contemporary style with ultra sleek furnishings like those of French ingénue Philippe Starck.

Meanwhile, the landscaping for the entire Châteaux de Paris reinterprets 18th century French garden design traditions during the reign of King Henry XIV. Gardens during his time were often characterized by grandeur, built to impress and showcase a high degree of wealth and power—very much something to be desired even to this day.

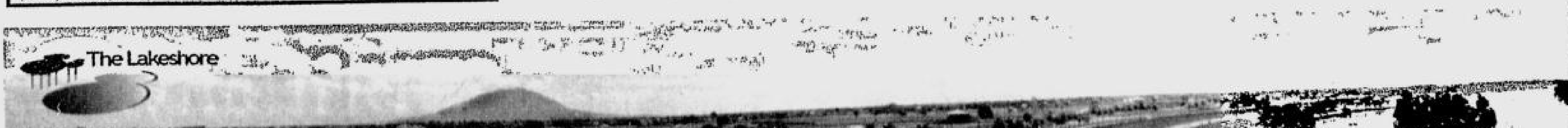
As such, this South Forbes project features French allée or alleys bordered by trees or clipped hedges. Allees intersect in acute angles and if viewed from above resemble a goose-foot. Along with the canals and reflecting pools, they not only lend a strong visual effect but also enable residents easy access to the nearest pocket park or even the clubhouse for a lovely time with family and friends.

Masterpiece

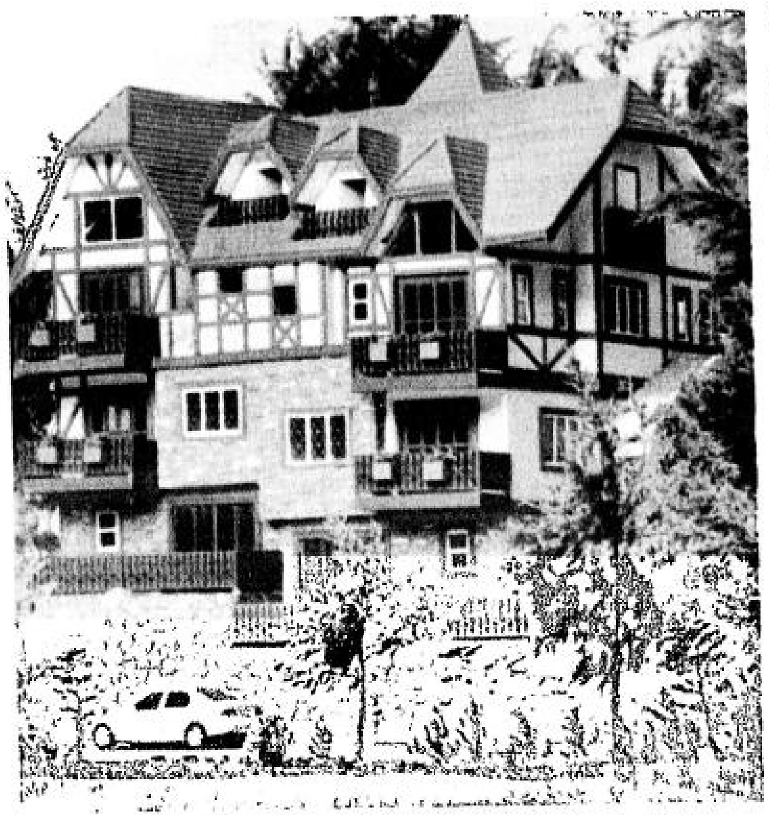
Of course, the masterpiece of Châteaux de Paris is the main clubhouse. It seems to float in a moat or reflecting pool, as inspired by the huge body of water that protects a French castle. It features granite doors, large arched windows, and flowers rich in color. Formal gatherings can be scheduled at the main ballroom area with the accompaniment of delightful music from a grand piano, whereas casual affairs can be booked at the adult and children's pool areas.

With every lot investment at Châteaux de Paris, mom and dad also get a free membership to the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club designed by the International Management Group (IMG). South Forbes' affiliation with the exclusive golf club of IMG SportsClub gives the couple exclusive travel perks: play and relaxation discounts in 42 top golf courses worldwide.

To fall in love all over again—but this time with the exquisite Châteaux de Paris—it is best to set an enchanting date at South Forbes, strategically located in Metro Sta. Rosa, by simply calling 635-8108 or 636-4643 or visiting www.southforbes.com.



Brittany rises to the occasion with Deux Pointe


DEUX Pointe at CrossWinds—Your own Swiss chalet amid the pines and mountain mist, an hour and a half from Manila.

NOTHING COULD POSSIBLY COMPARE TO the feeling of bliss that takes hold of one's mind when looking out from up above to the most breathtaking scene of the greenest landscape. With the warmth of early morning sunshine, a light breeze blowing and the fresh pine scent to perfume the air, it is not difficult to believe that this is how nature was meant to be viewed.

Rising majestically above the scenic Tagaytay is a property that offers a spectacle for the whole family to enjoy, take a breather from the hustle and bustle of city living, and relax and just be a loving family. Deux Pointe, the most recent offering of maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp., will rise within the CrossWinds development. It draws inspiration from the Swiss Alps and all the luxury that the true alpine fantasy entails.

"Brittany Corp.'s reputation as a maverick masterplanner is affirmed once more in Deux Pointe at CrossWinds. The vacation homes in this property are uniquely designed to meet the pinnacle of sophistication and high-end living. This is where people at the top can find their second home," explained Brittany president Jing Serrano.

The launch of Deux Pointe on April 23 was one charming Swiss affair. Clad in traditional Swiss ensemble, the CrossWinds Deux Pointe family extended their warm Alpine hospitality to guests atop Deux Pointe peak. From there, everyone gathered to witness the unveiling of the Deux Pointe scale models and the ceremonial ringing of the Deux Pointe bell led by Brittany officers. The sound of the tolling bell echoed across the CrossWinds expanse, signaling that Deux Pointe is officially on sale.

First look

With the unveiling of Deux Pointe's scale models Gran Duetto and Duetto Primo, guests got a first look of the quaint Swiss-inspired properties their family could enjoy at Deux Pointe. Adding a highland spirit to the affair is the country's only licensed bagpiper Roy Espiritu. His bagpipe's deep bellowing melodies, the fresh pine-scented breeze and the stunning hilltop scenery made for an unforgettable Alpine-inspired experience only Brittany can deliver.

As part of the 70-hectare masterplanned community of CrossWinds, Deux Pointe takes the success of Brittany's Swiss Quadrille development, literally, to a higher level—responding to the demand for a mountainside enclave for families needing a larger space. An exclusive development of 28 three- to four-story duetto units, Deux Pointe is the only high peak property still available in Tagaytay.

Dream weekend home

Deux Pointe offers prospective buyers a choice of a 208-sq-m three-bedroom unit or a 225-sq-m four-bedroom unit. Both units boast of a loft on the top floor that can be converted into an additional bedroom, or simply for one to enjoy the towering vistas. Each unit has a guest bedroom situated on the ground floor and a double carport.

"Deux Pointe, I really believe, is the dream weekend home. Built on a higher level, its homeowner can definitely enjoy a greater degree of privacy. You're surrounded with the natural beauty of Tagaytay. And of course, the house itself is especially crafted by Brittany Corp. to reflect your highly discriminating taste," Serrano said.

"It is truly the perfect addition to the CrossWinds development. Finding new ways for the residents to have a better vantage point of the scenery motivated us to push the Swiss inspiration to greater heights," she added.

Swiss architecture

CrossWinds takes inspiration from Swiss architecture. Elements such as overhanging eaves, wood patterns, wide balconies all set against a lush green landscape provide a haven where one can truly feel at home away from home.

Various design details were employed to ensure an inviting and comfortable atmosphere including a steeply-pitched, gable roof with varying roof lines. The dark-stained wood trims provide contrast to the stucco walls in varying colors to brighten the rooms. French windows with planter boxes ensure that the house is flooded with sunshine and fresh air. The ceramic tiles and natural stone on the porch and balcony with stained wood finish and hand-carved patterns on the railing complete the look.

It is the natural pine scent, however, that greets the guests and creates the ambience for this incredible Swiss getaway. The sweet scent is the result of thousands of pine trees planted by Brittany within the property.

Deux Pointe properties range from 98 to 107 sq m in lot sizes with floor areas ranging from 208 to 225 sq m. Packages range from P11.5 to P12.6 million. For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 and 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

> Deux Pointe is the only high peak property still available in Tagaytay

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PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for Sale on a per site and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, are 19 residential lots with site nos. 1-18 formerly belonging to the Peninsula Development Bank (PENBANK) and site no. 19 formerly belonging to Interland Chemicals, Inc. (ICI), as follows:

A. PENINSULA DEVELOPMENT BANK

Barangay Mapagong, Pagbilao, Quezon

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
1*	T-201847	Lot-1117-A	3,582	P200.00	P716,400.00

**Site 1 is a residential lot with a net useable area of 3,582 sq.m. This lot is with informal settlers. The TCT is still registered in the name of Rosita Uy, the Certificate of Sale in favor of PMO was registered with the Lucena City Register of Deeds on 11 April 2002.*

Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon (Peninsula Homes Subdivision)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
2	T-390065	Lot-3	194	P 450.00	P 87,300.00
3	T-390068	Lot-6	142	600.00	85,200.00
4	T-390067	Lot-5	100	600.00	60,000.00
5	T-390066	Lot-4	96	600.00	57,600.00
6	T-390069	Lot-5	102	600.00	61,200.00
7	T-390088	Lot-4	82	450.00	36,900.00
8	T-390062	Lot-3	135	300.00	40,500.00
9	T-390063	Lot-5	64	350.00	22,400.00
10	T-390064	Lot-7	93	300.00	27,900.00

Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon (Intertown Homes Subdivision)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
11	T-390101	Lot-12, Blk. 9	162	P 750.00	P 121,500.00
12	T-390092	Lot-18, Blk. 10	162	750.00	121,500.00
13	T-390091	Lot-8, Blk. 11	231	650.00	150,150.00
14	T-390090	Lot-7, Blk. 8	150	600.00	90,000.00
15	T-390100	Lot-8, Blk. 8	150	600.00	90,000.00
16	T-390106	Lot-15, Blk. 8	150	600.00	90,000.00
17	T-390102	Lot-11, Blk. 9	150	650.00	97,500.00

Barangay Panaon, Unisan, Quezon

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
18**	T-390096	Lot-1-B-2	830	P200.00	P166,000.00

***Site 18 is with informal settlers.*

B. INTERLAND CHEMICALS, INC.

Barangay Balubad, Atimonan, Quezon

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
19	T-297151	Parcel 7, Lot-3	45,040***	P130.00	P5,855,200.00

****Net useable area*

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of offerors on 17 May 2006, at 3:00 p.m., 6th Floor, PMO Conference Room, NDMC Building, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may request for duly authenticated copies of the Offer For Sale Documents for a nominal fee of P500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 5th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. John DF. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331 or 817-8762.

(PDI--April 27, 28 & 29, 2006)

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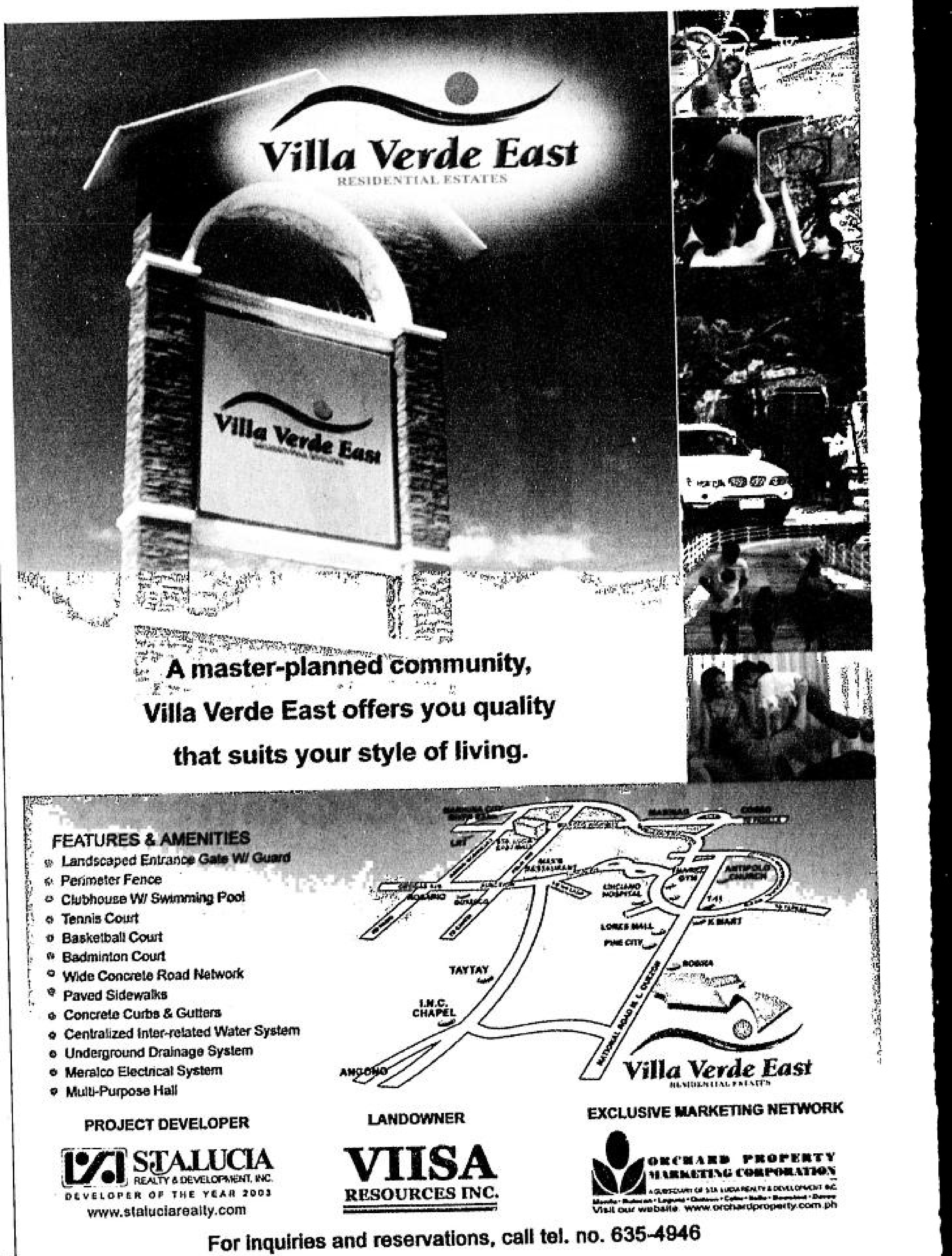

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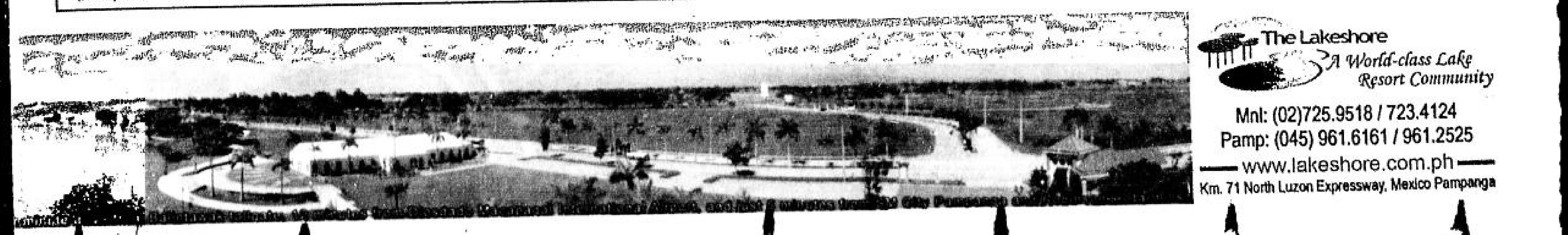
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RP's next tourist destination now in Bicol

By Ephraim Aguilar
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BACACAY, ALBAY—SMOOTHLY rising as the next tourist destination in the country is the Misibis Resorts, Estates and Spa, a 20-hectare prime commercial and residential estates complex nestled in an island facing the Pacific.

The resort complex has a wide stretch of fine white sand and a scenic view of the Sula Channel—a salty river in a lake's clothing that links the Albay Gulf and the Pacific Ocean.

The Misibis Resorts, Estates and Spa recently launched the Amalfi Condotels.

The project, a billion-peso amenity, is one of the highlights of the resort development of Misibis, a barangay in the Cagraray Island here, which began two years ago.

"Amalfi" is an Italian word which means "a place that offers a beautiful view of the sea."

And very true to its name, the Amalfi Condotels—a hotel and condominium combined, the first of its kind in Albay—offers a soothing view of a clean, world-class beach in Cagraray.

The Amalfi is founded on the concept of bringing people to a relaxed lifestyle, from the hurly-burly of the city life to a serene living headed out of town, where one can experience fresh breezes and a picturesque panorama everywhere one turns—displaying the splendor of nature.

This place, one can suitably call a second home, is about 11-hour drive from Manila or a 45-minute plane trip and about an hour-and-a-half drive from the Legazpi City Airport.

Last April 9 was the groundbreaking and first concrete-filling and unveiling of the miniature perspective or diorama of the condotels.

The Amalfi is a nine-structure "condotel" composed of seven blocks of three- to six-story condominiums and two hotels worth at least P1.1 billion.

Architectural design

Every room will be flexible to the taste and creativity of the resident since it has no permanent divisions. With a divider or two, the resident can freely determine space allotment and design for the studio-type interiors.

Amalfi's architectural design is said to beautifully blend with the natural landscape.

Avoiding the splash of bright colors, RMJM Philippines, the architectural company handling Amalfi, will be careful to use only soothing tones that will maintain the tranquil mood.

Made different from the common, big city skylines, the structure will have no precise rectangular shapes from the top of the building to the bottom.

The L-type and V-type design of the condominiums will stand harmoniously with the slopes of this seaside property and will help achieve a restful ambiance and an unobstructed view of the ocean.

All materials used in the construction of the "condotels" are meant to complement the splendid outdoors and to maintain the natural atmosphere of the resort. Such materials are the slate walls, ceramic tiles, steel railings, natural tones and wooden structures.

Motor vehicles will be limited to designated areas only to minimize noise and pollution in the complex. Instead, Amalfi will be accessible via golf carts.

Strongest points

Cagraray island can be a perfect hub of tourism since it is nearest to the region's entry points and is surrounded by seven other wonders of ecotourism in Bicol. Among these are Mayon Volcano, the world's most perfect cone-shaped volcano; the butanding, the largest and one of the most gentle fishes in the world also known as the whale shark and lurking at the waters of Donsol town in Sorsogon; and the Sula Channel, the site where the Spaniards used to hide their galleons during typhoon and which until now is a strategic hiding place of vessels during tropical storms.

Others are the Manta Rays, the world's fifth largest fish, which can be found in between the waters of Ticao Island in Masbate and Bulan town in Sorsogon; the Boiling Lake, which is a naturally heated water from beneath the earth; the underground river, consisting kilometers of stalactite and stalagmite formations; and the Vera Falls, located on a secluded nook of Mt. Mayon, about 122 meters above sea level, a natural paradise of forest and clear-cascading waters.

All these made Misibis Land Inc. president and chief executive officer Elizalde "Zaldy" Co confident to invest a tremendous amount of money in Cagraray.

Tourism economic zone

Co and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director Lilia de Lima signed a memorandum of agreement on March 3 certifying Misibis as a tourism economic zone.

This certificate of registration has granted Misibis exemption from import duties and taxes on imported machinery and equipment and income tax holidays for four years, and later, exemption from national and local taxes, except real property taxes on the land owned by the developer.

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Proclamation 998 signed last Feb. 14, designated parcels of land totaling an area of 196,743 square meters for use by Misibis as a special economic zone.

Government support

In a speech during the Amalfi launch, Rep. Joey Salceda of the third district of Albay pledged his support to what he called a "history-maker" project.

As a way of showing his support to Bicol tourism, Salceda said he had initiated, as head of the House committee on appropriations, the P150-million land acquisition at Barangay Alobo in Daraga town where the Southern Luzon International Airport will be built. It is expected to improve the accessibility of tourist destinations here.

He added that a P270-million bridge connecting Sula and Misibis will be built not this year but very soon.

Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez said the government had invested a large amount of money in the roads and infrastructure to help develop and promote Misibis as a tourist spot.

In her visit to the beaches here in May last year, President Arroyo said it was one of her agenda to make Bicol one of the popular tourism destinations in the country after Boracay in Aklan, for the region has potentials to boost of economic tourism zones.

Good returns

Gonzalez said the local government expects significant investments in Misibis. He believes that its development is a "sure-win" venture.

"It will open the doors to other investments. And it will help the province in employment generation," the governor added.

Currently, at least 100 residents of the Cagraray community have been employed by the resort development project, according to Vitchie Ubaldo, operations manager of the Misibis Resort, Estates and Spa.

In a press conference, Co said they expect 7,000 tourists every month. But they will be operational yet next summer when the coffee shops and the initial phases of the condotels have been completed.

By 2010, he said, Misibis will be fully operational.

Added amenities

In its soft opening by April 2007, other projected features of the resort are a cozy entry lounge and coffee shop, poolside sunken bar, restaurant and bar, free-form infinity pool and deck, spa and health clinic, 50 condotels, souvenir shop, recreational facilities and equipment, business center, and additional 15-room villas.

By April 2008 there will be additional 50 condotels, chapel, helicopter rides, basketball court, function rooms, convention hall, tennis court and lap pool.

By April 2009, there will be additional 25 condotels.

And from 2010-2015 there will be an airstrip, golf course, farm lots, flora and fauna collection, fishing lagoon, outdoor amphitheater, cultural heritage center and museum, bowling lanes, driving range, forest park and trail, campsite, canopy walk, equestrian ranch, and marina and yacht basin.

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hi-Lo

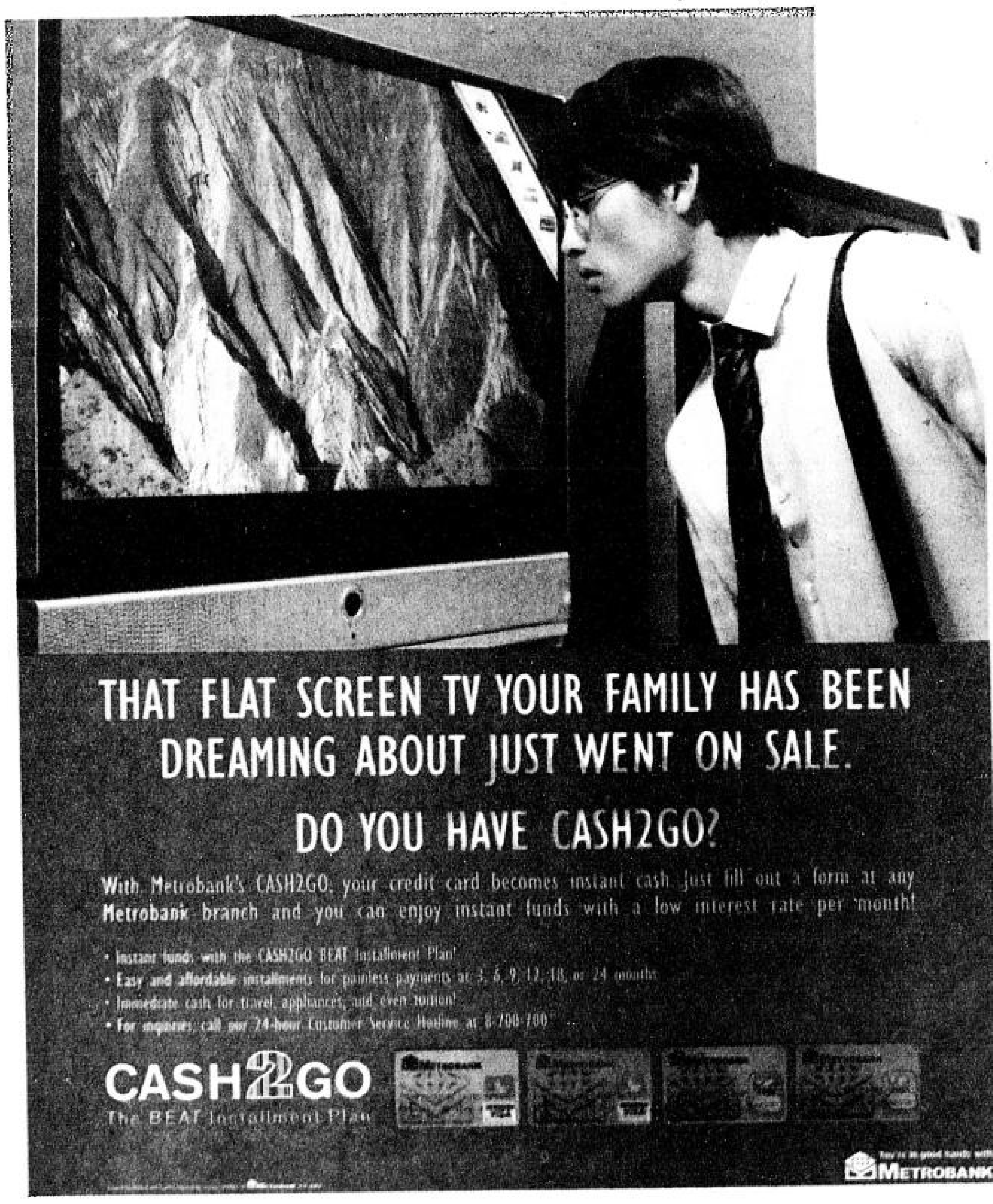
Super! exclusive Keanna Reeves and Bianca Gonzales page C2

Another Super! exclusive on Poseidon's Emmy Rossum page E1

Yet another Super! exclusive on Kaskade cascades into Manila page E4

A Super! summer in red, black, white and gold page C3 and D1

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: LOPE NAVO
Styling: ROBBY CARMONA assisted by CHARMAINE PALERMO and TINA DANIAC
Sittings editor: DAVID MILAN
Make-up: MICKEY SEE for Shu Uemura
Cover girls: KEANNA REEVES and BIANCA GONZALES wearing RAJO LAUREL, RHETT EALA, JOEY SAMSON and IGNACIO LOYOLA with accessories by ARNEL PAPA



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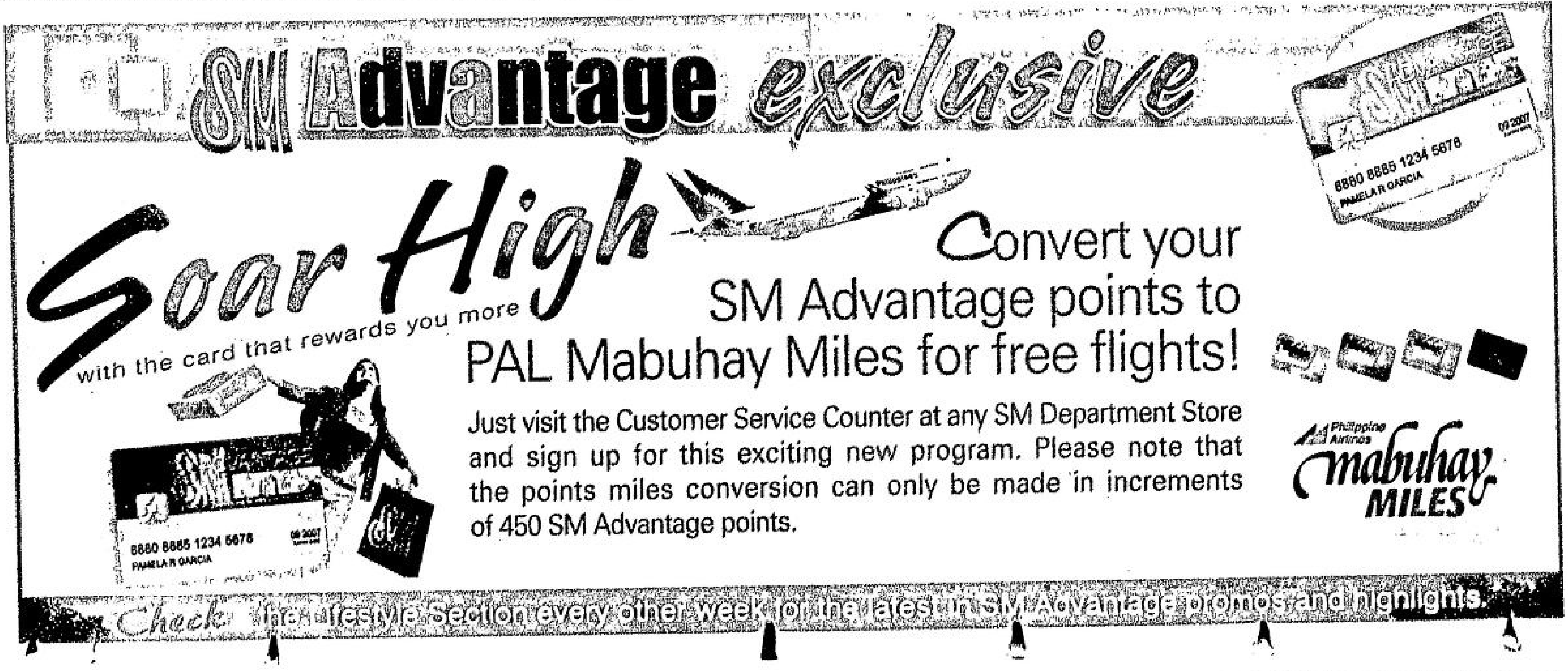

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KEANNA AND BIANCA

Style sisters out of Big Brother's house

Photography: LOPE NAV
Styling: ROBBY CARMONA assisted by CHAR
MAINE PALERMO and TINA DANIA
Sittings editor: DAVID MILA
Makeup: MICKEY SEE for Shu Uemur
Cover star: KEANNA REEVES and BIANC
GONZALES wearing RAJO LAUREL, RHET
EALA, JOEY SAMSON and IGNACIO LOYOL
with accessories by ARNEL PAP

Tim Yap

"MEET MY TWO BEST friends," was **Keanna**'s opening line, which immediately elicited giggles from the Super! staff. Nope, she was not referring to anyone in particular, but at the twin peaks that were peeking out from the designer dress that **Robbie Carmona**, who is our guest stylist for this exclusive Super shoot, chose for her to wear.

I had met Keanna the other night through her bosom (pun intended) blonde buddy **Rustom Padilla** at the VIP room of Embassy. Even there, people were approaching for photo ops and were quite excited to meet the reality TV star. "*Nanay*," **Bianca** called out to her co-Backroom talent to help fix her dress. Immediately you can sense the tight rapport between the two. Well, how can they not have any when they've lived with each other 24 hours for 50 plus days at the Big Brother house, "celebrity edition" let us not forget.

"I wanna greet my new *sosyal* friends," Keanna would jokingly say on nationwide TV, after meeting the fashion and party folks at Embassy. For this Super! photo shoot in fact, people volunteered to be part of it just to meet Keanna. Designers even rushed clothes that would fit Keanna's more than ample assets just to make it in time for the pictorial. Bianca arrived a bit late, because she came from a shoot for yet another cover of a magazine.

I have witnessed the growth of Bianca as an artist and am really proud of what she has accomplished. Starting out as a commercial model, she has slowly but surely climbed the show biz ladder, bit by bit, even working under the think tank for ABS-CBN top man **Enrico Santos** before getting her show biz breaks. She is also a recipient of an I Am Super! Award for her work in championing the youth voice in her show "Y Speak." We spoke in private right before photographer **Lope Navo** started his La Chapelle-esque shoot.

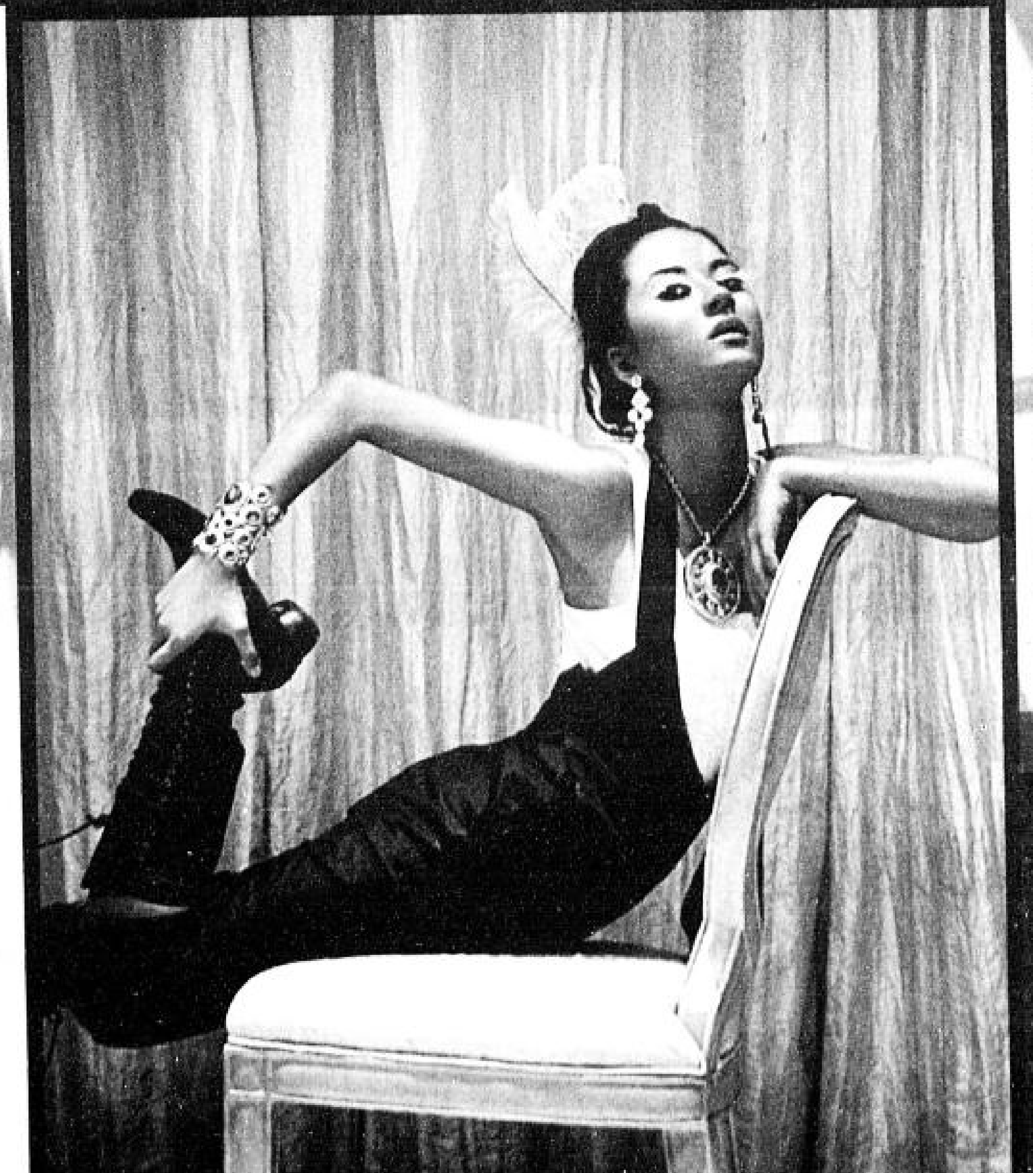
She became teary eyed as she recalled her moments inside the House, and she told me that she remains "hopeful" that things between her and her boyfriend, the director slash Super! contributor **Lino Cayetano** gets fixed after all the brouhaha that the show has caused. "We really didn't realize that the whole world was watching. Once inside, you sort of forget the magnitude," was how Bianca described her Big Brother experience.

"It taught me how to be more real as a person," added Keanna. When I asked her if she was 100-percent real, once again she pointed to her two best friends. "Well, these two are, 100 percent real-real silicone," she answered, without batting a fake eyelash.

Now who said show biz folks are all plastic?

Bianca Gonzales

The thing about fame is that ... it comes with great responsibility.
The thing I love most about what I do is ... I get to share important information or ideas with people.
The most important thing I've ever learned is that... I have yet to learn so much more.
I wish when I started off I've been told that... having an accountant to fix your taxes is important.
The secret to happiness is... seeing the goodness in everyone's heart.
My Super! Saturday night consists of... either resting at home or going out with friends!
The things that make me most angry... are abusive people.
If I was the most powerful person on earth... I would get rid of all corrupt persons.
The best thing about family is that... they are there for you, no matter what.
When I'm gone, they'll probably say... she had a good heart.
When I retire, I would like to... travel the world.
The world would be a much better place if... people conserved water, threw trash properly, and recycled.
My hero is... my brother JC.
The thing that makes my life worth living is... everyone around me who I can make happy.
My greatest hope for the future is... a better Philippines where every child can go to school.
The worst thing somebody said about me were... things said about me while inside the Big Brother House.
I'm saving up to... study again.
My biggest indulgence is... coffee.
My current state of mind is ... hopeful.
I aspire to be ... a good, happy, successful mother, wife, friend, daughter, and career woman.



Keanna Reeves

The thing I love most about what I do is... I make people happy.
People might be surprised to know that... I'm good in bed.
The most important thing I've ever learned is that... I learned to read the Bible.
The worst thing that ever happened to me was... being an escort girl. *Nalihis ang landas ko.*
And what this taught me was... to fix my life and be near to God.
The secret to happiness is... to follow your heart.
My best ever outfit is... the one I wore during the Pinoy Big Brother Big Night.
The soundtrack to my life would include... "I've Never Been To Me."
If I was invisible for a day, I would... rape Brad Pitt.
The thing that makes me most angry is... somebody who is a backfighter.
If I was the most powerful person on earth... I will give all poor people work.
When I'm gone, they'll probably say... *totoong tao ako.*
My hero is... Tito Boy Abunda.
The thing that makes my life worth living is... my children and my whole family.
The worst thing somebody said about me was...when my ex-boyfriend said to me *"P*ta ka lang."*
My favorite moment was,..when Rustom revealed his deepest secret to me.
My most embarrassing moment was when... *wala akong maalala kasi wala akong pakialam kung nakakahiya yung ginagawa ko o hindi eh.*
I'm saving up for... the future of my children.
If someone would play me in my biopic it would be... myself *na lang kasi sayang yung ibabayad.*
My 5 favorite words are... KFC, ouch, pout, Rustrom
I aspire to be... *maging mabuting tao lamang*

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ABSOLUT RASPBERRI LAUNCH

BOTTLE ART. Otto Hernandez doing an on-the-spot graffiti art

RED ALERT. Paolo Araneta, Tanya Ilana and Solen Heussass

ROUGE PREVIEW. Pauline Suaco Juan, Vince Uy, Agoo Bengzon and Bridges @Com's Leah Caringal

RED OR DEAD. Andre and Daryl Chang

ABSOLUT TRIO. Anna Villaraza, Happy David and Che Ramos

FETISH CHAMBER. Absolut-ly wild party

RED DEVIL'S ADVOCATE. Ed Aniel and Angelo Villanueva

I'M NO ANGEL. Felipe Villaroman

Red, black and white Super! Summer sizzlers

By Tim Yap

"L'ARTE NELLO SPORT"—THE ITALIANS really have a way of doing everything al dente. Polo season just went by, and Fila made sure that it didn't just go by unnoticed. Cris Albert and hubby Butch, the First Couple behind Fila in the Philippines made sure to transform the Manila Polo Club into one big black and white ball, all in the name of the tradition that they have started three years back since they launched the Donita Rose line at the same venue.

Now with Bianca Araneta as endorser, they continue to hold the torch to uplift the sport that elite sport which Iñigo Zobel and Bobby Aguirre are well known all over the world for. "We need to promote this sport more to the next generation of polo players," Butch told me while we were watching the beautiful turn out of people at the Polo field. "It just keeps getting better every year," he said as we observed his wife Cris going around, being the consummate society hostess that she is, wearing Fila's latest collection while making sure the crowd was aptly entertained and served well.

I shared the mic with Bianca as we talked about the sports brand's latest collection of tops and bottoms, shoes and new Filativa line-sportswear lifted to an exciting new level. Right before this was a yoga exhibition led by Maritoni Tordesillas, Antonio Arando, Lianna Romulo, Caroline Kila, Becky De Villa and Connie Ponce.

By sunset, the White Team emerged as winner, with Vince Bitong happily clutching the giant trophy (to wifey Ana's delight) and party peeps enjoying the DJ music that played on the polo field that celebrated Fila's coming of age—the marriage of art and sport.

Oh, did I tell you that until April 30, it's 50 percent off on shoes at all Fila boutiques?

Red and rebellious Raspberri

Rebels with their own causes flocked to the Fort where a giant red structure was set up for just one reason—to introduce Absolut's latest variant Raspberri. This vast party compound had private rooms, a main floor and various chambers that indulged the reveler with the newest rouge concoction to hit our shores, a red sea blend of wild and ripe berries that were ripe for the sipping.

Absolut-ly stunning Bianca Valerio led guests into the first chamber where artist David Sicam transformed Absolut bottles into bumblebees, which he hung on the ceiling. Otto Hernandez did on-the-spot graffiti art on a giant Absolut bottle while Ed Aniel and the Air dancers did some aerial calisthenics before the Dawn took over and unveiled Absolut Raspberri in a rare musical fusion of rock, ethnic and electronica—kudos to that!

This Raspberri variant is made from all natural ingredients and without any added sweetener. "This is not a shy and sweet product, it is a rebel who is as intense in its taste and scent as in its red and grey packaging," explained Bengt Baron, V&S Absolut Spirits head.

This page features the red and rebellious. Go ahead, have a sip.

FILA POLO CUP 2006

FILA WINNERS' CIRCLE. Ana and Vince Bitong with Butch Albert

VITAMIN CITRUS. Louie and Missy Ysmael

FILA DUO Rina Albert and Chase Tinio

PMAP PALS. Valerie de los Santos and Rissa Samson

NUVO FILA. Cecille Ysmael and Maricris Zobel

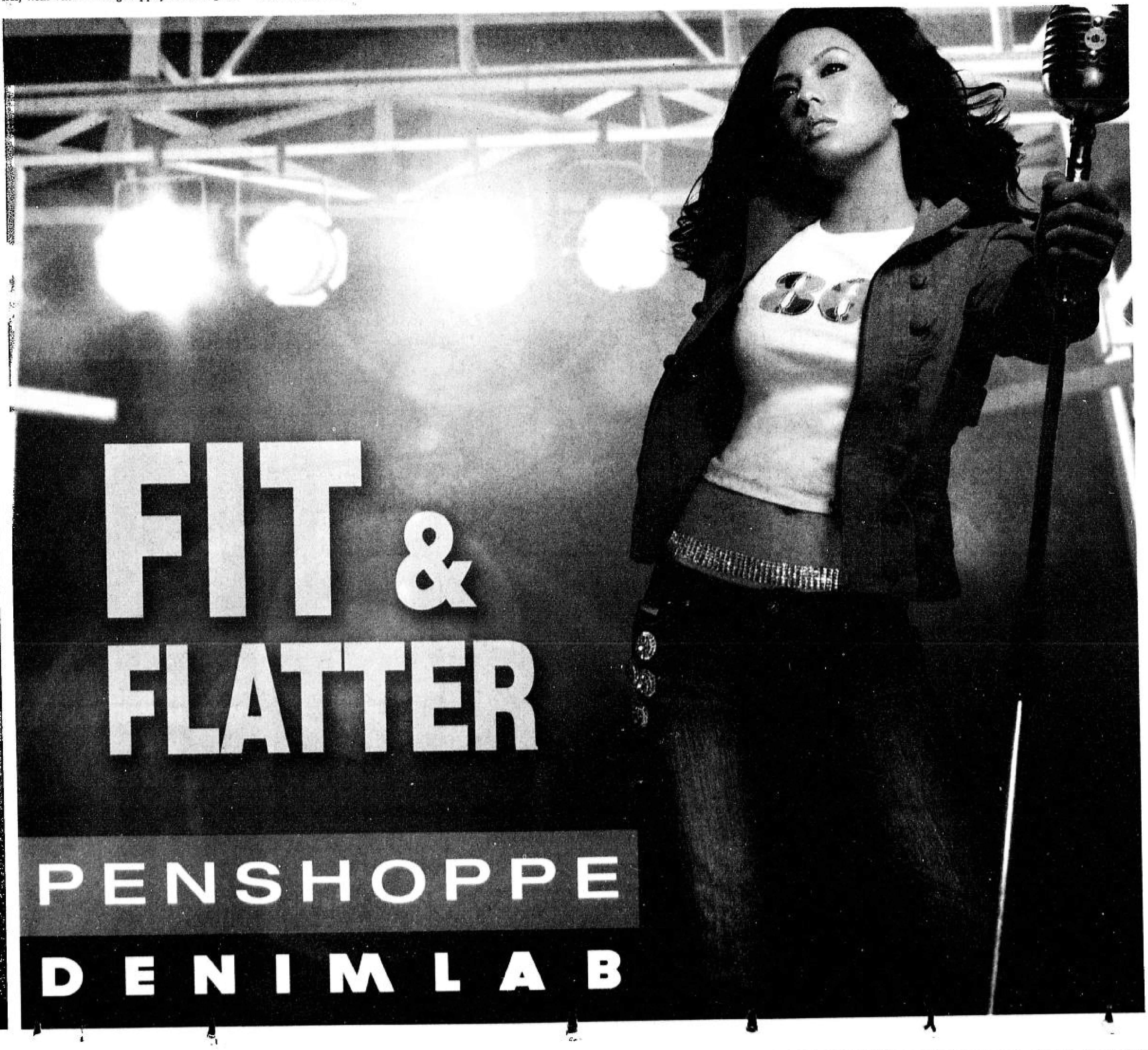
ALL FOR YOU. Herbert and Henson Sy

FILA DIVAS. Wanda Louwalien, master Henri Calayag and Fila first lady Cris Albert

FILA GANG. Greggy Araneta, Charlie Carmona and Irene Marcos-Araneta

HOSTING CHORES. Bianca Araneta and me

POLO SCION. Natalia Zobel

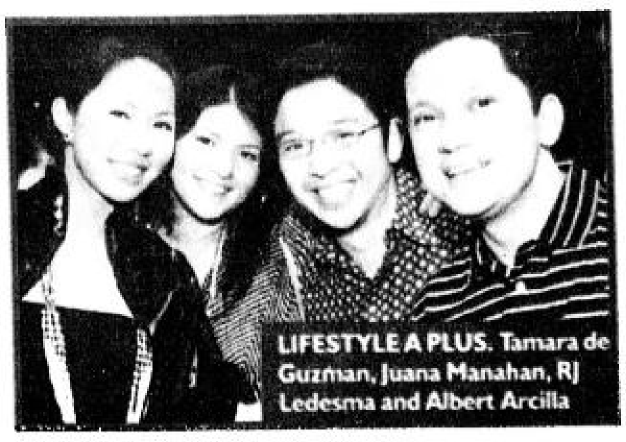


LIFESTYLE ASIA'S A-LIST

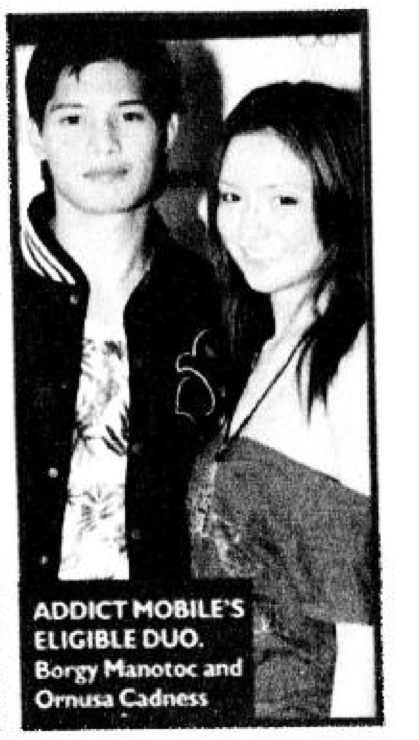
earching for the perfect beat

NUVO SESSIONS. Anton Ramos and Louie Ysmael

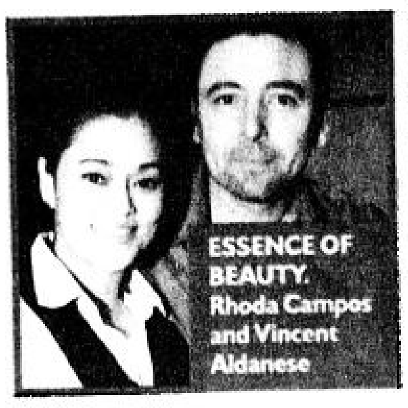
PARTY OF FIVE. Joji Dingcong, Sari Yap, Maurice Arcache, Lorraine Belmonte and Pepper Teehankee



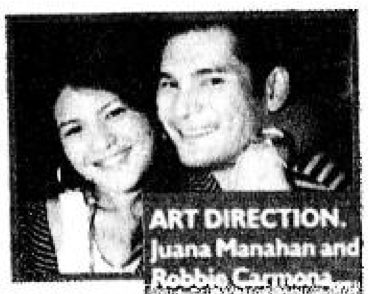
LIFESTYLE A PLUS. Tamara de Guzman, Juana Manahan, RJ Ledesma and Albert Arcilla



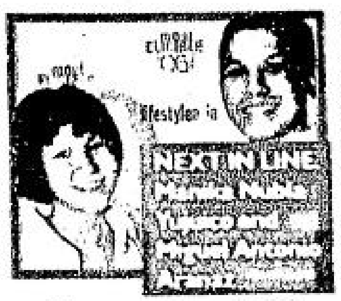
ADDICT MOBILE'S ELIGIBLE DUO. Borgy Manotoc and Ornusa Cadness



ESSENCE OF BEAUTY. Rhoda Campos and Vincent Aldanese



ART DIRECTION. Juana Manahan and Robbie Carmona



NEXT IN LINE. Manika Nubla Yujuico and Miguel Antonio Aranaz

IT'S A GUY THING. MTV VJ John Joe

What makes them eligible?

IT WAS A GATHERING OF THE YOUNG A list—meaning available, needless to say, talented and extraordinarily blessed. Nuvo Bar in Greenbelt 2 was filled with the metros' blingsters as Lifestyle Asia hosted one great party for it's annual Eligibles List. Overflowing Rene Barbier, Barcino Wines and Absolut Vodka filled guests as they partied to club music mixed by DJ Anton Ramos. Amidst the backdrop was an presentation of this year's eligibles, which include hot young talents of today such as Borgy Manotoc, Alexis Alunan, Heart Evangelista, Chichi Atienza as well as businessmen like Paolo Cabalfin and Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez.

Although not all of them were truly available as their partners served as arm candy to make sure nobody else could grab them—fair enough.

Other "Eligibles" on site include Tessa Dragon, Manika Nubla Yujuico, Miguel Antonio Aranaz, Xavier Dominguez, Nicole Jacinto, Angel See, Karina Mahbubani, and Ian King, who is now oh so in love with the sultry supermodel Joey Mead, were all present.

Watch out as these young minds make waves in the coming year! Three cheers for meritocracy—now that's Super!

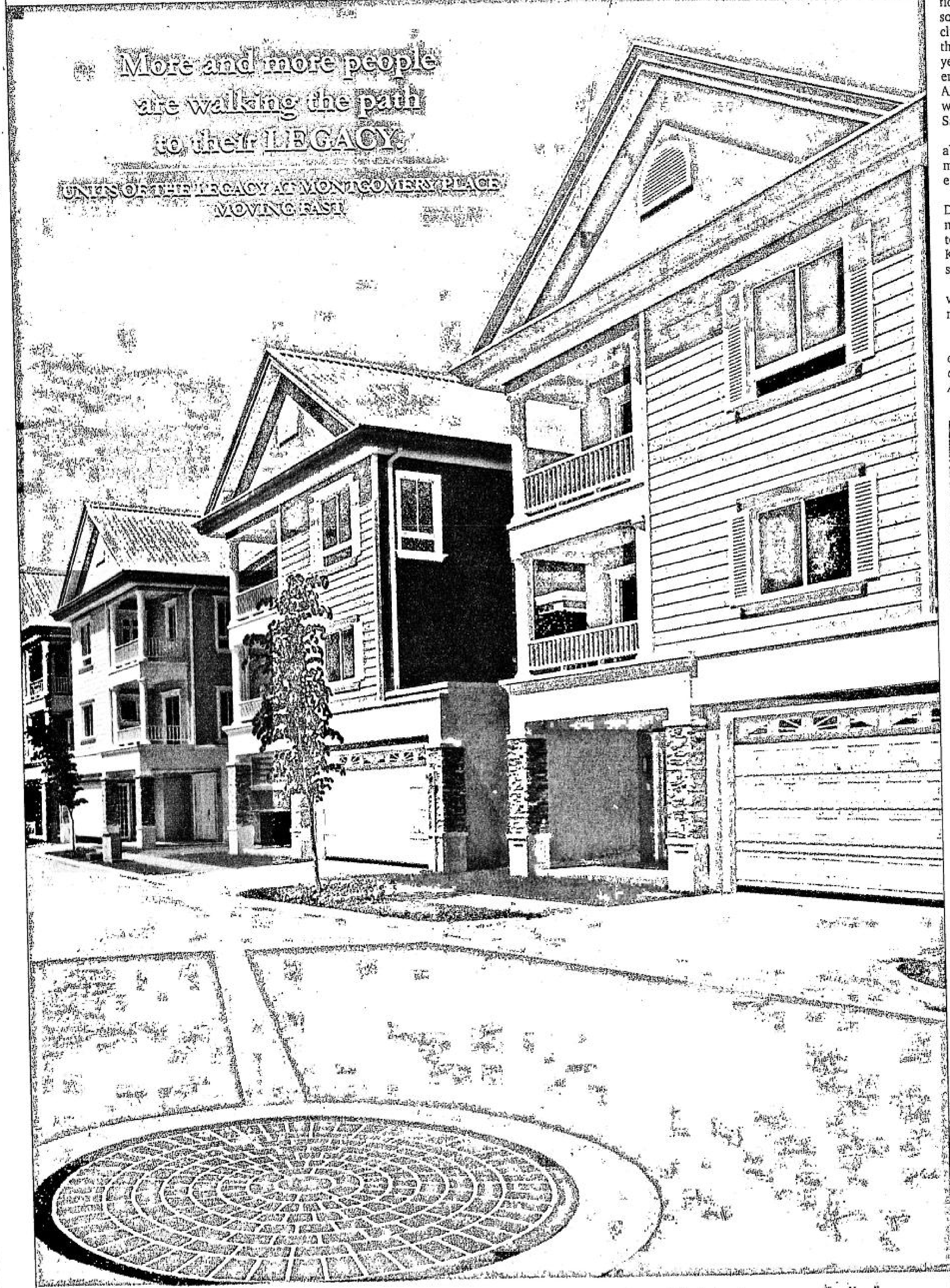
The Most Eligible 2006 is featured in the latest issue of Lifestyle Asia magazine, now available in bookstores and newsstands nationwide! Are you on this year's list?

KING'S COURT. Ian King

MEGA MAIDEN. Cheryl Tiu

SHU SHOWER. Tessa Dragon with Xeng Zulueta

SUPER LIFESTYLE. Tim Yap and Carmen Silverio Roxas



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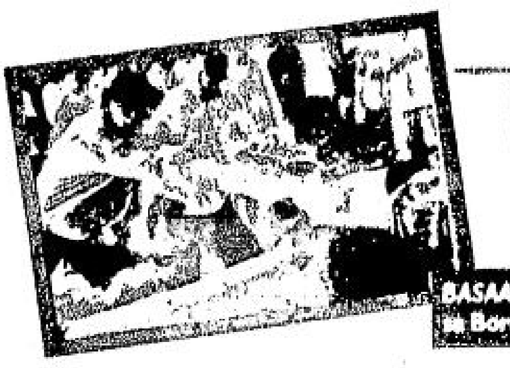

BASAAN sa Bora

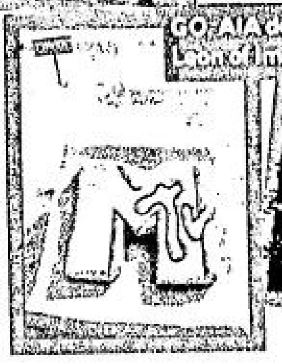
MTV SUMMER BREAK WITH COCA-COLA

MTV Summer Bodies

GO AIA de Leon of Imago!

JET VALLE and Tim Cacho in a very Brokeback embrace

LIZ CLAUDIO



GOOD morning, Andrea del Rosario!

Summer's Cool

By Pepe Diokno
Photos by Daniel Tan

I LOVE BORACAY. I WILL ALWAYS remember it as the place I lost my game show virginity.

I've never dreamt of being on Survivor, or Extra Challenge (R.I.P.)—so I don't know how I got tricked into joining MTV's Summer Break in Boracay.

MTV said, "It'll be three days of nothing but fun!" And I bought it. It was—there were the best concerts I've seen this year, bikini contests (whoo!), and lots of yummy Mango Liqueur.

But the catch was that I had to play games. And it wasn't *Bring Me* or *Pin the Tail on the Donkey*. They were hardcore games, like-Bikini Wrestling, a clue challenge, dodgeball, and three-legged volleyball. Not my cup of tea—but you're gonna have fun watching us "play."

PANIS FACES: KC Montero, Tutti Caringal and Ney Dimaculangan

Game KNB?

On the first day, they broke us into teams. I was on the purple team (yeah!). We had Reggie Belmonte, Ney and Chuck of 6cyclemind, Mich of Sugarfree, Aia of Imago, and Champ of Hale.

Who were we up against? A bunch of beatables from Sugarfree, Hale, Imago, and 6cyclemind, with wimps like JC Cuadrado, Raimund Marasigan of Sandwich, Jet Valle, Katya Santos, and Andrea del Rosario.

(I've taken the competitiveness with me to Manila. That's what game shows do to ya.)

My team took the whole thing seriously. There was P50,000 on the line, man. Now, you probably know that money makes people do craazy things. With MTV and the best bands in the country, "craazy" is Hubble telescope-ified.

RAYMOND Marasigan and Marty Abaya

Fun and (no) games

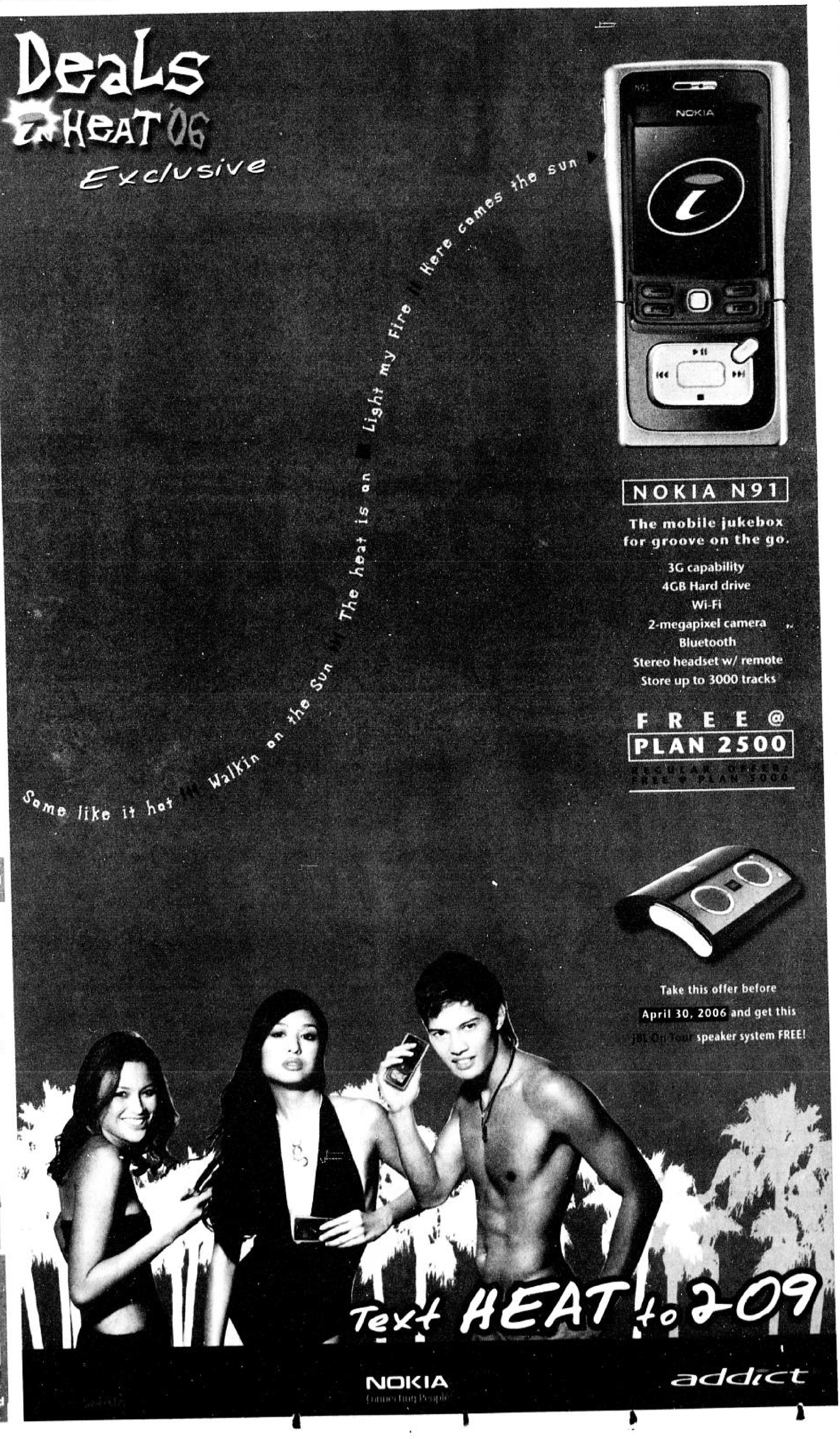
Anyway, it wasn't a wild weekend just 'cause we played for money. No, that'd be sad.

The bands took shifts playing for the Bora crowds throughout the weekend. (Rakrakan! Cough.) And on the last day, DJ Mike Cons of the BBC helped us all chill on the beach.

SUMMER/ D2

BIKINI RASSLIN: Pepe Diokno vs JC Cuadrado

NEY I SAY, YEY! Beachfolk go wild for 6Cyclemind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Take this offer before April 30, 2006 and get this JBL On Tour speaker system FREE!

Text HEAT to 209

NOKIA Connecting People
addict

WE ARE IN HEAT. Addict Mobile endorsers Kelly Misa, Super Tim, Motorola's Mari Litonjua, Cristina Garcia, Nicole Hernandez and Nick of Motorola Asia-Pacific

SUPER! class picture for Borabound 5 revelers

I love you Bunnerson!
I love you too Scrufferson!
Yay! I won a Motorola Dolce and Gabbana phone!
Watch out for my modern 60 room designer hotel at the center of D'Mall

MICHELLE PAMINTUAN AND ERIK CUA

SUPER BORABOUND!

Alohaholics unite!

Text and photos by David Milan
Additional photos by Daniel Tan

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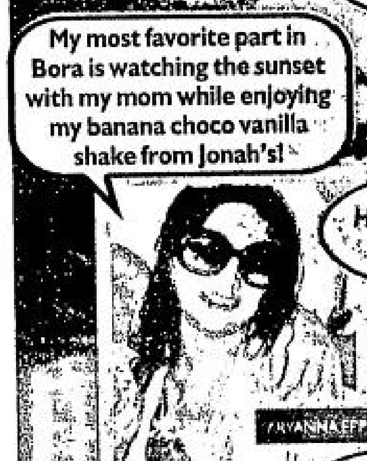
Being tired after all the activities but still alive to party party party, being shades darker than usual and being high on laughter—these are the symptoms of an alohaholic! I must say, it was fun to be one for three days. Until next year's Borabound!

BORABOUND ALOHAHOLICS LOVES:

Addict Mobile and Motorola

SEA AIR, CLARITY & HEALTHWAY, RAYBAN, JAGERMEISTER, HAWAIIAN TROPIC, LACOSTE, MONGCOC, HAWAIIAN BB, HAVAIANAS, COCOTINI, MOJO DOJO, F&H, EMBASSY, CLUB PARAW, ARIA, COCOMANGAS, PEARL OF THE PACIFIC, BORACAY PLAZA


My most favorite part in Bora is watching the sunset with my mom while enjoying my banana choco vanilla shake from Jonah's!

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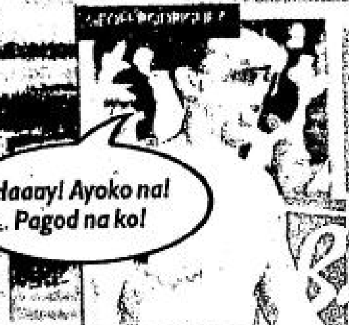
Haaay! Ayoko na! Pagod na ko!

Kainis! Ang Init!
It's okay baby! don't worry!

TISHA SILANG

Watching the sunset is my favorite part of being in Boracay

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Check out my mom's beach cover ups collection for Folded and Hung!
Captain Barbell rocks!!!

hu hu hu... I lost the game!

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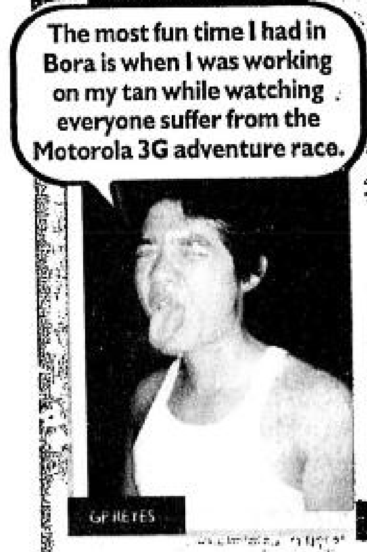
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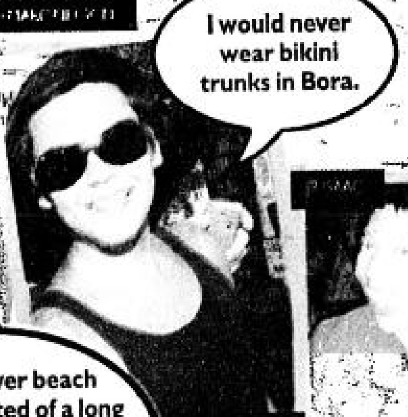
KAT CRUZ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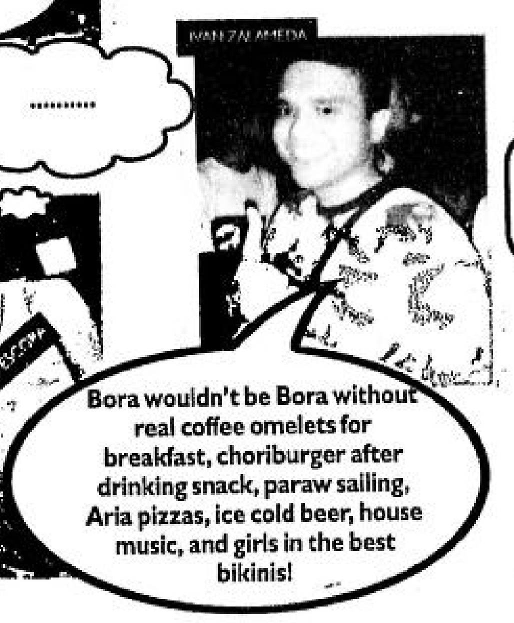
I looove Borabound!

....
Can you see me?


Bora wouldn't be Bora without real coffee omelets for breakfast, choriburger after drinking snack, paraw sailing, Aria pizzas, ice cold beer, house music, and girls in the best bikinis!

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CHICHO SUAREZ

BEACH BUDS. Liz Claudio and Anne Matoto

AAAH, champ (Lui Pio)!!!

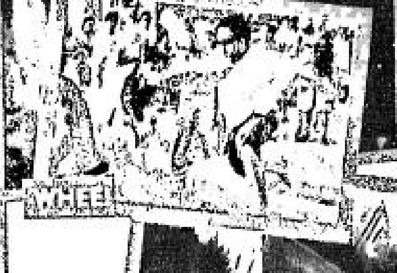
JET VALLE is not drunk, Mango Rum Liquer is grood

CARRY kare

SUMMER Break winners, the f—ing Red Team

EBE DRAMA Dance!

AYOS na ayos



WHEE!

MTV VJs Cindy and Mark

Summer's Cool

From page D1

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RAYMUND Marasigan's special performance

MY TEAM, the purple team—ye-ah! (From left:) Champ Lui Pio, Reggie Belmonte, Ney Dimaculangan, Ala de Leon, Pepe Diokno, Chuck Isidro

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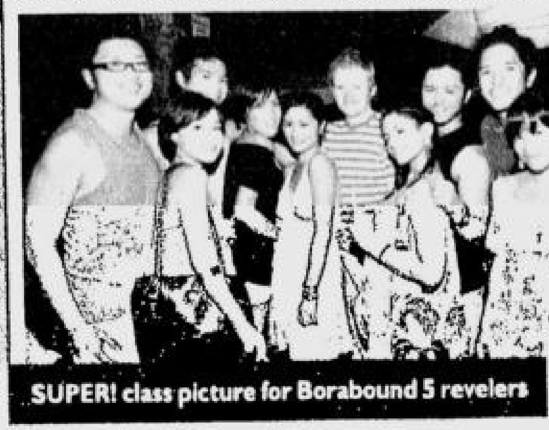

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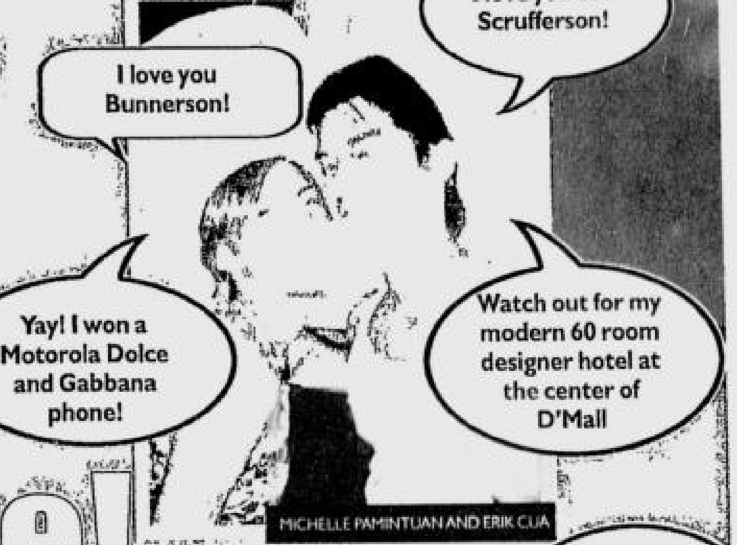
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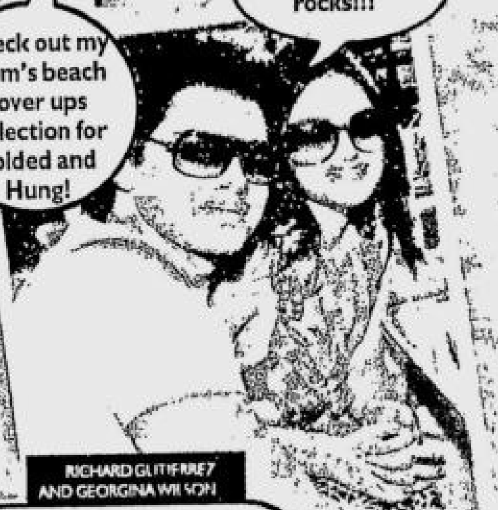
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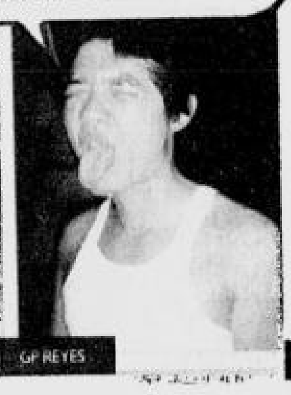
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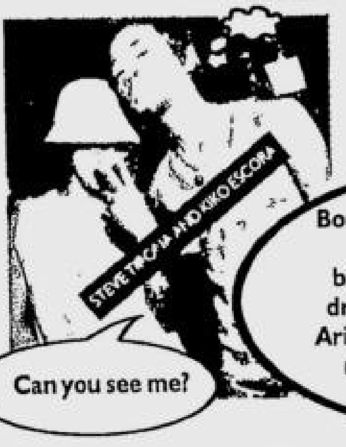
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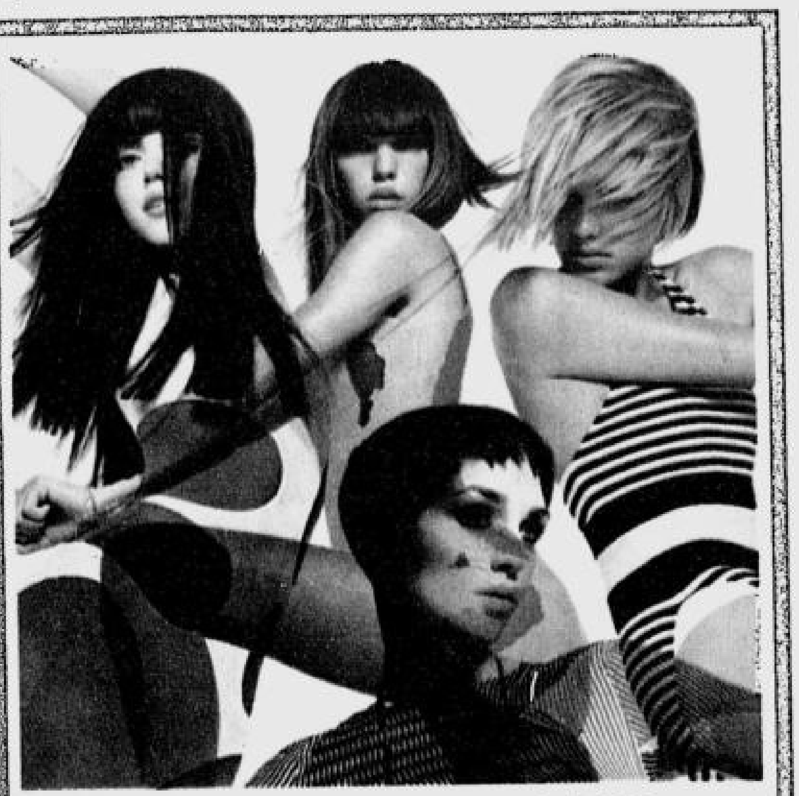


L' oreal Color Trophy 2006

THE L'OREAL COLOR TROPHY IS now internationally recognized as one of the most exciting competitions in hairdressing today. Held in 29 countries around the world, it gives an amazing platform for hairdressers to express their creativity and uplift the industry on global scale. Today, it is a spectacular opportunity to display Filipino talent.

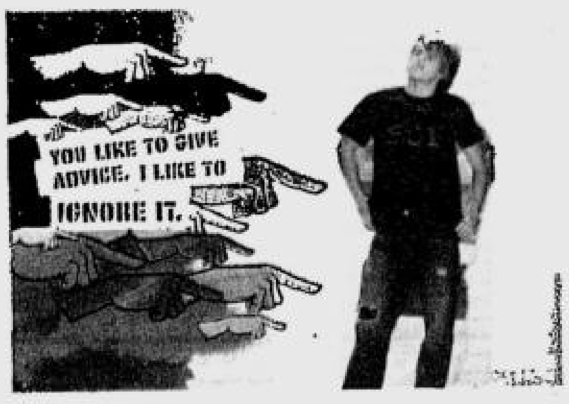
Now on its 6th year in the Philippines, the L'oreal Color Trophy is much anticipated in the hairdressing calendar. Watch out for the photo exhibit on May 10 to 14 in Glorietta (fronting Swatch and Greyhound).

The gala night will be on May 15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom.

Levi's 501 reveals canvas of truths

I AM NOT
MY FATHER'S
SECOND CHANCE

You'll never really know me until you know what turns me on.


YOU LIKE TO GIVE ADVICE. I LIKE TO IGNORE IT.

IN STAYING TRUE TO THE iconic jean's heritage of originality and authenticity, Levi's® reveals its latest 501® campaign that is a canvas of intimate truths about the 501® wearer and the 501® jean.

"This latest 501® Stay True campaign is all about keeping it real and authentic. It is about accepting who you really are and telling the world the intimate truth that makes you, you." says Ronnie Celestial, Levi's Brand Leader.

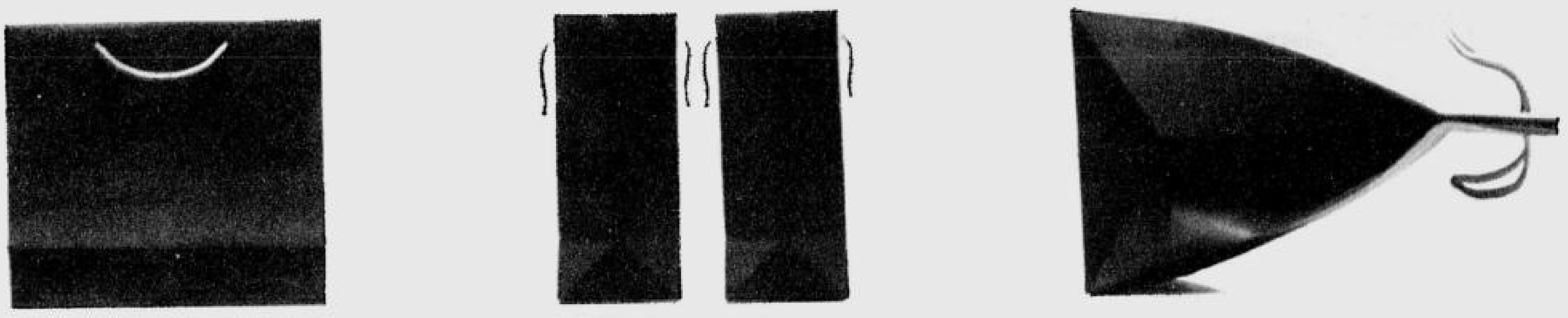
The message of the campaign is thought provoking, personal and empowering. Examples of taglines: "I Am Not My Father's Second Chance"; "You Like To Give Advice. I Like To Ignore It."; and "You'll Never Really Know Me Until You Know What Turns Me On."

The campaign also celebrates the heritage of the brand that's captured in the new 501® Customized Jean designed specially to mark 501 Day.

Levi's® designers have artfully customized the jean to achieve a well-worn look combining premium finishing, fabric and detailing. There's also a limited edition Levi's® 501® Customized Jean with an embroidered label "501® Limited Edition 2006" and a serial number handwritten in waterproof ink runs along the inside of the waist. For the first time ever, the Levi's® 501® Limited Edition Customized Jean will be complemented with a Limited Edition Customized denim jacket for guys, and a Limited Edition Customized T-shirt for both guys and girls.

Levi's® commemorates 501® Day with a two-day concert series on May 5 and 6. On May 5, jive at the Fort Plaza with Up Dharma Down, Imago, 6Cyclemind, Pupil, and Urbandub; People in Davao can head to the Venue and rock with Tabularasa, Mackina, Go Larry Go, and Sugarfree.

On May 6, Levi's 501 brings Faspitch, Powerspoonz, Smooth Friction, Sheila and the Insects, and Pupil at Offroads Cebu, while SM Baguio comes alive with Menaya and Spongecola.



Ayala Malls
Love malls

On Labor Day,

STOP PAUSE PLAY

UP TO 70%* OFF
Take a break and enjoy big discounts on May 1, 2006
[illegible]
glorietta GREENBELT

NEW!
1-Year Certificate in Culinary Arts
(Starting June 2006)

Are You In?
(With CCA, We Are!)

CCA
Center for Culinary Arts, Manila

Practical Education for the Global Chef
Katipunan, Quezon City | Tel. 426-4840 to 41
marketing@cca-manila.com
www.cca-manila.com

CCA, Manila, the Philippines' pioneer in formal culinary education, continuously leads the way in the food service industry by giving you practical, hands-on education, equipping you with the much needed skills to excel in the global culinary arena.

Not only will you graduate highly competent and passionate with your craft, we'll make sure you'll bring fresh and young ideas as you face and rock the world.

Application is on going for June and August intakes:

Diploma in Culinary Arts and Management (2 years)
Diploma in Baking Pastry Arts and Management (2 years)

1-Year Certificate courses also available

Certificate in Culinary Arts (1 year)
Certificate in Baking and Pastry Arts (1 year)

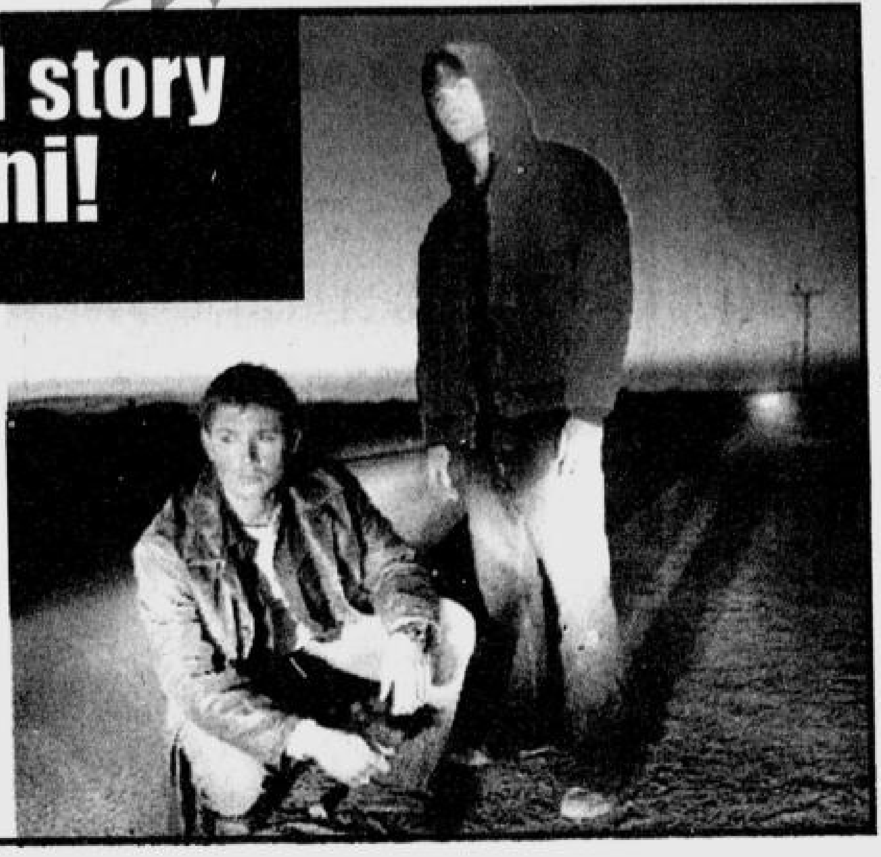
Enhance your diploma and earn a degree through our local and international partner schools:
Miriam College, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (Canada), Blue Mountains Hotel School (Australia), Johnson and Wales University (USA), and Les Roches School of Hotel Management (Switzerland).

Scholarships available for deserving applicants.

See you on MAY 18 for our GRAND OPEN HOUSE

Chef Rosebud Benitez
Class 2002
Host, Ka-Toque,
QTV Channel 11

Tell your Supernatural story and win an iPod Mini!



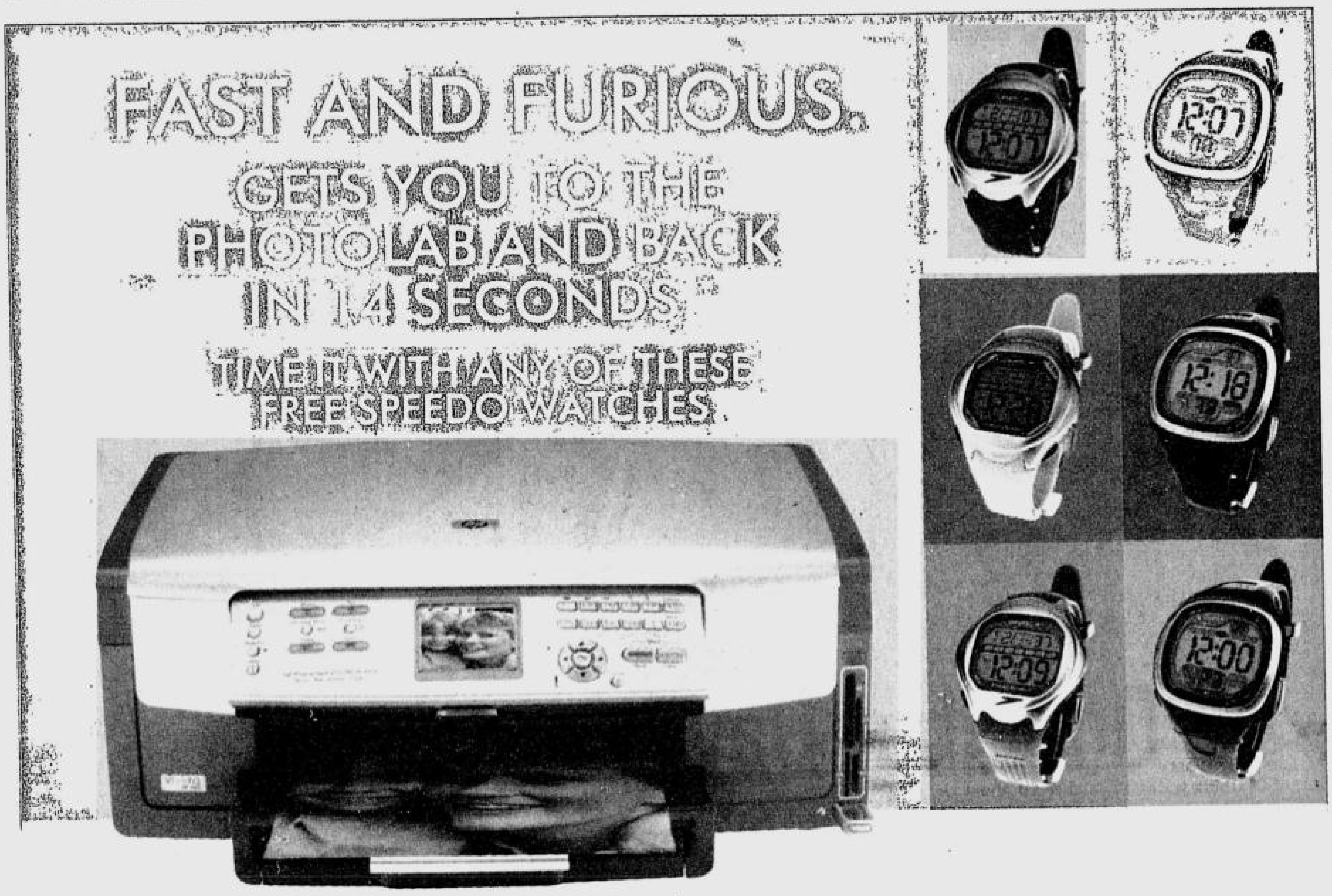
AS IF YOU AREN'T GLUED TO your TV already, here comes AXN with another series that's sure to keep you captivated.

Supernatural chronicles the adventures of brothers Sam (Jared Paladecki) and Dean (Jensen Ackles) as they travel the backroads of America in search of their father who has vanished. Their journey leads them to the eerie world of demons, urban legends and folklore. It is up to the two to find their father and face supernatural forces along the way.

The series, which was launched in the US in 2005, will begin airing on May 4, Thursday, at 10 p.m.

And to get us all in the mood for the show's premiere, AXN and Super! want to read about your own supernatural experiences. Send your true spooky stories to super@inquirer.com.ph (not more than 300 words, please). Don't forget to include your name, age, office/school and contact info. The reader with the best story will win an iPod mini!

Deadline of entries is on May 10.


FAST AND FURIOUS.
GETS YOU TO THE PHOTO LAB AND BACK IN 14 SECONDS
TIME IT WITH ANY OF THESE FREE SPEEDO WATCHES

Get your prints faster with the HP Photosmart 3110 All-in-One. Now you no longer have to sacrifice speed in favor of having built-in capabilities of a printer, scanner, copier and a fax machine. With the HP Photosmart 3110 All-in-One, print 4 in. x 6 in. (10.16cm x 15.24cm) color photos in as little as 14 seconds with brilliant HP Vivera Inks. And for a limited time, get a Speedo digital watch (worth P1,800) with every purchase of any participating HP Printer.**

P19,090 | HP PHOTOSMART 3110 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimized dpi color printing[1]
- Print and copy at up to 32ppm (black) or 31ppm (color)
- Integrated color fax with caller ID and junk fax barrier
- 2.5-in. LCD (6.35cm) LCD screen colour graphics display
- Direct photo printing - Pictbridge, Bluetooth,and memory card slots
- Multi-slot memory card reader (Compact Flash Type, I & II, Memory Stick, Secure Digital/MMC, Smart media and xD-Picture Card)

HP Dial-a-cartridge 1 800 1331 6688 doorstep delivery

vivera HP INKS

P5,990 | HP PHOTOSMART 7830 PHOTO PRINTER
- Versatile everyday printer - document / photo printing
- Fast printing speed at 22ppm (black) or 21ppm (color)[2]
- 4 in. x 6 in. (10.16cm x 15.24cm) print speed - 27seconds
- HP PhotoRet 4 Color Layering Technology (6 ink color printing)
- 4800-optimized dpi
- Connectivity - Pictbridge, Bluetooth (optional) and memory card slots

P13,490 | HP PHOTOSMART 8230 PHOTO PRINTER
- A4 print speed 32ppm color / 31ppm black
- 4 in. x 6 in. (10.16cm x 15.24cm) print speed - 14 secs
- 6-ink color printing
- Connectivity - Pictbridge, Bluetooth (optional), and memory card slots
- 2.5-in (6.35cm) color graphic display
- Economical 6 individual ink cartridges - ideal for high volume photo and text printing

P16,190 | HP PHOTOSMART 2610 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimized dpi color printing[1]
- Print and copy at up to 30 ppm(black) or 20ppm(color)
- HP PhotoRet 3 / HP PhotoRet 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
- Up to 2400 x 4800 dpi optical scanning resolution
- 2.5-in. (6.35cm) LCD screen color graphics display
- Multi-slot memory card reader (CompactFlash Type I & II, Memory Stick, Secure Digital/MMC, Smart Media and xD-Picture Card)
- Pictbridge compatibility
- Built-in Ethernet network capability
- Optional Bluetooth connectivity (wireless photo printing)

P19,590 | HP OFFICEJET 7210 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimized dpi color printing
- Print and copy at up to 30ppm (black) or 20ppm (color)
- Pictbridge compatibility
- HP PhotoRet 3 / HP PhotoRet 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
- Memory card capability (CF1, CF2, Smart Media, Memory Stick, SD/MMC/secure multimedia, xD-Picture)
- Scan up to 2400 x 4800 dpi optical resolution / 48-bit
- 50-page ADF and fax
- Built-in networking (802.3 ethernet network capability)

P8,990 | HP OFFICEJET 4255 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimized dpi color printing[1]
- Print and copy at up to 17ppm (black) or 12ppm (color)[3]
- HP PhotoRet 3 / HP PhotoRet 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
- A6 borderless (w/ tab) printing & copying on photopapers
- Scan up to 600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution / 36-bit
- 20-page ADF and fax

P10,190 | HP OFFICEJET 5610 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimized dpi color printing and laser quality text[1]
- Print and copy at up to 20 ppm (black) or 13ppm (color)[3]
- HP PhotoRet 3 / HP PhotoRet 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
- 2-line text LCD screen
- Scan up to 1200 x 2400 dpi optical resolution / 48-bit
- 25-page ADF and fax

P11,490 | HP OFFICEJET PRO K550 COLOR PRINTER
- Lower black cost per page w/ the world's fastest desktop color printer
- Up to 37ppm black, 33ppm color
- 32MB RAM
- 250 sheet input tray
- Up to 7500 pages per month
- Up to 4800 x 1200 optimized dpi[1]
- High capacity individual ink cartridges

P17,290 | HP DESKJET 460cb MOBILE PRINTER
- Full featured mobile printer that delivers optional Wi-Fi and Bluetooth wireless connectivity
- High quality printing at up to 17ppm (black) and 16ppm (color)
- Up to 4800 dpi optimized dpi color
- Duty cycle: up to 500 pages per month

**Get a Free Speedo watch when you purchase any of these HP Printers:

HP Photosmart 7830 / 8230 Photo Printer, HP Officejet 4255 / 5610 / 7210 All-in-One, HP Business Officejet Pro K550 Color Printer, HP Deskjet 460cb Mobile Printer, HP Photosmart 2610 / 3110 All-in-One

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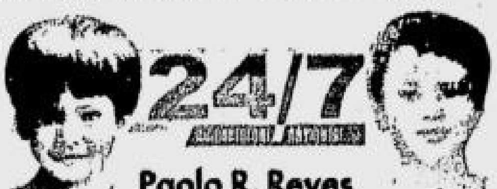
©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 to 5:30pm. *Speed comparisons in default and fastest modes, when printing from a computer, based upon HP internal testing of comparable consumer photo printing products as of April 2005. [1]Up to 4800 x 1200-optimized dpi colour when printing from a computer and 1200-input dpi. [2]Print and copy speeds may vary according to the complexity of the document and type of output. dapter, not included purchase separately). [3]Dependent upon document type and print mode; approximate figures. Exact speed will vary depending on the system configuration, software program and document complexity.

Promo runs from April 24 to June 30, 2006. See flyers and posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2407, Series of 2006.

Indie Grooves

BEFORE POP MUSIC TRANSFORMS you into a tasteless fool, slowly ease your way into the whole indie groove. It's time to venture beyond the freakishly familiar and explore some rockin' events off the beaten track. And if you arrive surprised (or slightly stupefied) at how raw, organic, and experimental everything is, don't fret. They're still excellent fun, and—best of all—free!



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Princess Bato's Sigaw ni Maria Clara

When: 7 p.m. tonight at the Esplanade, Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

Who: 4 Poets, The Dorques, Cherry Cornflakes, Cynthia Alexander, Matilda, Saydie, Narda, Wild Mood Swings, Imago, Up Dharma Down, Drip, Moonstar 88, Cocojam, Isha, The Late Isabel, Scarlettears, Helen, and Reklamo.

Why you should go: An armada of artists, plus a few 5-minute poetry readings (spoken words by the women of "Romancing Venus": Wawi Navarroza, Karen Kunawicz, Kaz Castillo, and others), should make for a breezy femme festival by the bay. Extra points for being a benefit gig of the Correctional Institute for Women.

Indie Pilipinas' Indie Sessions

When: May 7; 6 p.m. at the Marikina Riverbanks Amphitheater, Marikina City.

Who: Kapatid, Kiko Machine, Typecast, Jeepney Joyride, Mano-mano, Hilera, Fuseboxx, Live Tilapia, Beautiful Day, Nityalila, The Dorques, Lila, The News, Warthog, Shave, Redlead 65, Porject Def Star, Emmanuel, 23rd Psalm, Tension, and Brought by Blood

Why you should go: A massive "musical rally" to be held simultaneously in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Dumaguete, Naga, Quezon, Laguna, Lucena, and Dagupan. With music as their medium, the creative folks of underground label Indie Pilipinas showcase a stampede of songs to push for peaceful means.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

April 29, Saturday

Mojofly and Michael Angelo at Esquinita, Cynthia Alexander birthday show at Conspiracy; Freshly Squeezed at Citrus; Twentysomething Saturdays w/ GP Reyes & Stephen Ku at Mezze; Quench w/ DJs Chip de la Calzada & Mac Cunanan at Quisine; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; Fluxxe at 6 Underground; DJs Scratchmark, Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Campusition Night at Mag:Net Café

April 30, Sunday

Christian Lacroix: Dialogues at Ayala Museum; Filipinas: Isa Lorenzo exhibit at UP Vargas Museum; Olazo & Olazo exhibit at Galleria Duemila; Visions of Light; Jaime Zobel exhibit at Ayala Museum; Kuhang Marino exhibit at UP Vargas Museum

May 1, Monday

2006 Bad Boy Tour w/ Dennis Rodman & NBA Legends at Araneta Coliseum; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gwellos Makati; Dawn & Jessie at Merk's; Wine Buffet at The Lounge; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah, Zion at Esquinita

May 2, Tuesday

Urbandub at Saguijo; Up Dharma Down at Conspiracy; Salsa Night w/ Salsa Filipinas at Mezze; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Night at Temple; Sitar Nights at Bollywood; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar; Aretha & the Souled Out Band at Merk's, Rita and Cultured Milk at Esquinita

May 3, Wednesday

Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Discotech w/ DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Willy Wanka's Music Factory w/ Joffy Cruz at Gwellos Makati; Classic Wednesdays w/ DJ Brit at Government; Acoustic Night at 6Underground; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café Katipunan; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy, Bliss at Esquinita

May 4, Thursday

Battle of the Bands w/ Mojofly at Phi Bar; British Council's Europe Month Concert with Antonio Forcione Quartet, Cynthia Alexander & Mon David at Crossroad 77 Center; BBC's HotButteredSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse! w/ DJs Mark Jentes & Wendell Garcia at Capone's; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Acoustic Jive at Merk's; Pinwheel at Conspiracy, Sitti at Esquinita

May 5, Friday

Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Celestial w/ DJ Benjo Marquez at Mezze; Fashion Fridays w/ DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Happy Yummy Fridays w/ DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Route 70 at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark, Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Joey Ayala at Conspiracy, MYMP at Esquinita

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

PICKY PICKY. "I'm very choosy," says Emmy on her roles.

Emmy Rossum gets wet and wise

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

PERFORMING IS SECOND-NATURE TO New Yorker Emmy Rossum, who has appeared in 20 different operas throughout a stage career that started when she was just seven. The 19-year-old actress and singer had undergone extensive training as part of the Children's Chorus of the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center, and it wasn't long before she landed roles in the daytime soap "As the World Turns," acclaimed dramas "Law and Order" and "The Practice," and the original TV movie "The Audrey Hepburn Story."

But perhaps her most noticed performances to date are her turns in prominent big screen projects, having played a variety of imperiled young women in the Clint Eastwood-directed "Mystic River," Roland Emmerich's "The Day After Tomorrow" and most recently, Joel Schumacher's adaptation of the musical "Phantom of the Opera." She was able to use her classically trained singing voice in that last film, and her performance earned her critical acclaim and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Lead Actress in a Musical or Comedy.

Rossum, in a recent, exclusive phone interview while in Los Angeles, discussed in detail how she's far from being the typical Hollywood teen queen. She also talked about the rewarding experience of working with Wolfgang Petersen on the disaster flick "Poseidon," and her exploration of a special, non-film endeavor, among other topics.

How have you kept up with the unusual demands of show business while growing up?

That's a very good question. It's tough because my life is so unconventional in so many ways. I'm gaining so much in singing and dancing on stage and film, but even if I started my career at a young age, I still feel lucky. I have friends from when I was much younger. I don't party with celebrities, because as a person, that's just not who I am. I have more fun going out with my friends to the supermarket and cooking, and going to the movies with them. My family has normal 9-to-5 jobs, and for them, this is all weird and exciting, but they're very supportive of me. I don't have assistants or personal trainers. I'm a pretty normal person.

You've worked with popular and decisive directors. How valuable is it for you to experience different styles of filmmaking?

It's increasingly valuable. Everyone has a different approach. Clint Eastwood keeps a very calm set, and whispers directions. But of course, there's hustle and bustle in filming "Phantom" and "Poseidon," a lot of yelling and orchestration. But Wolfgang Petersen is probably the sweetest, kindest director I worked for. In a set like that, he keeps a balance. And I knew that there was gonna be a lot of water this time, so I worked closely with it.

How exactly did you prepare for your role in "Poseidon," and how challenging was it?

I play Jennifer, the sweet, soft, intelligent type; she's really feisty and sexy. I regularly visit the Museum of TV and Radio in New York. It's a great resource of mine. In "Poseidon," it's such a difficult thing to play someone who's experiencing a disaster. I didn't know how to play the right level because I've never encountered a tsunami or a flood, but when I listened to a tape of a girl who called during the 9/11 attacks, I understood and knew how to play it.

You've worked opposite Jake Gyllenhaal and Gerard Butler before. Who plays your love interest this time?

Mike Vogel is a very handsome, wonderful blond guy. He's so handsome, so it's very easy to kiss him!

How friendly an atmosphere was the "Poseidon" set?

I became friends with Mike, Josh Lucas and Kurt Russell, who plays my dad. It's an awesome experience. When you spend five and a half months shooting it, you see each other in the most revealing light. Kurt and Richard Dreyfuss kept us laughing. It was fun, even if we had 14 hours straight of shooting, and sometimes we had to spend up to six hours underwater. We had scuba tanks, and between takes, it was so much fun. I mean, I was taught to scuba dive and it's not a blue screen. There are moments when actors do their own stunts, so it's great.

How has starring in Hollywood movies affected you as an actress?

When I was younger, I wanted to be an opera star, so becoming a mainstream actress is really a surprise. I still live in New York. I still have the same friends. My work is not really a celebrity-driven thing for me, because I really do it for the acting. I don't really strive to be famous. I want to be able to give truth to my roles.

How important is it for you to portray diverse characters?

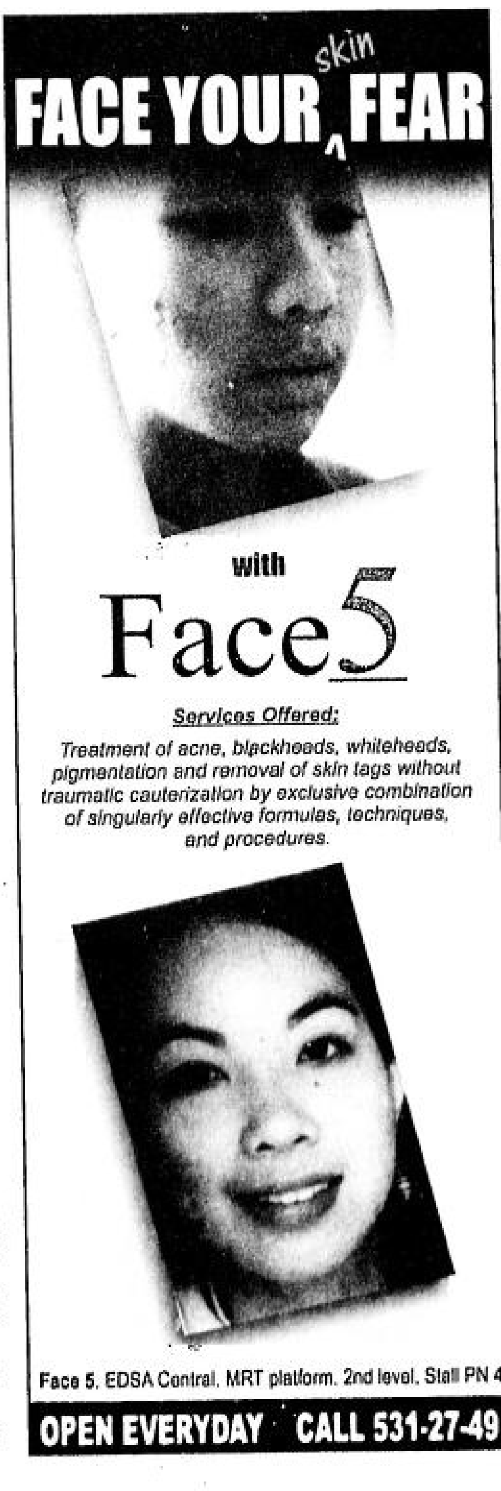
I don't pick the same roles, actually. "Phantom of the Opera" was a period piece; I played a vulnerable girl with emotional baggage. Now I play someone different, a contemporary woman. I'm very choosy. I've turned down roles before. I only do parts that touch me and are entertaining and meaningful. I want it to be worth the viewer's $10. That's how much a movie is in America, and it's a lot. I only tell people to watch it if it's worth their $10.

You're currently working on your debut album. Please describe your music.

It's under Geffen Records, and it's coming out next year. I'm writing the lyrics. A lot of it is self-expression and it's very fulfilling. It's letting my fans in on who I am and it's an opportunity for me to be really creative. I'm a soprano but I have a very big range. I think the sound that I'm going for is not traditional Britney Spears pop music at all. I wanna bring something new to it. My influences are David Gray and Sarah McLachlan, so it has a much edgier vibe.

What's the most important thing you've learned so far about your work and the business?

The most important thing I learned is that... (pauses). I don't know. I've never been asked that before. I guess I'm (learning that I'm) my own worst critic and I push myself too hard. The greatest advice that Jake Gylenhaal gave me was to get a mentor. And one of my co-stars in "Mystic River," Marcia Gay Harden, became that because none of my family really is a part of this. I admire her work and respect her. I can always call her, and she tells me that the smartest people ask for help and seek out information. I'm blessed and I feel incredibly lucky! A lot of success I've had is because I gave 150 percent into what I do. Yes, 150 percent (laughs). I wanna keep doing films and singing. I'm really excited and optimistic.



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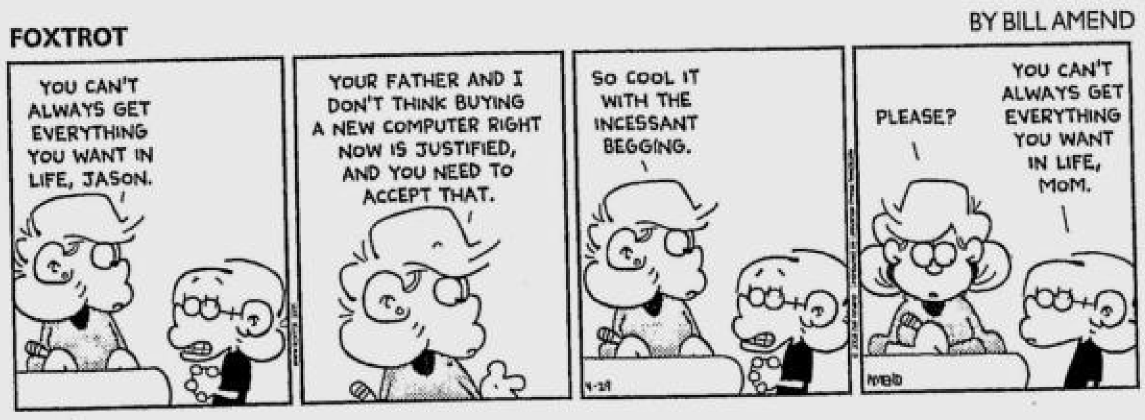
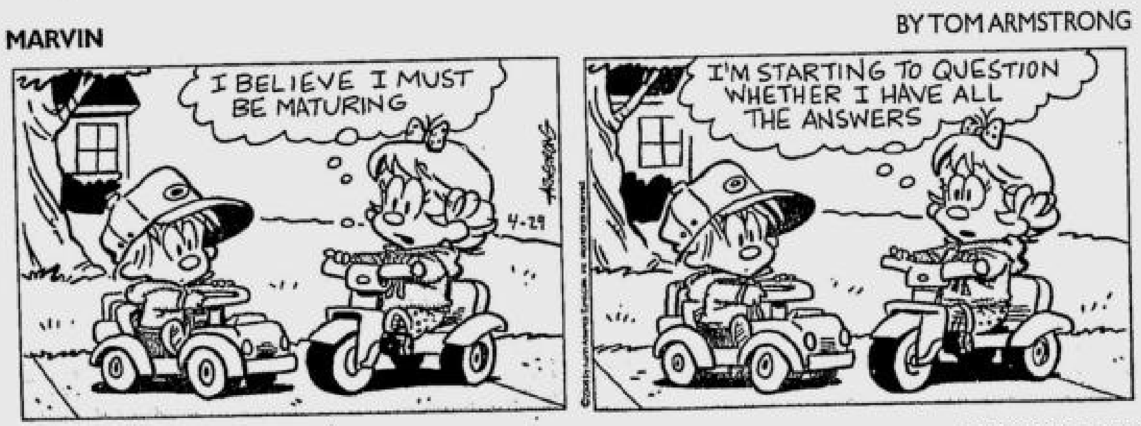
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN LIFE, JASON.
YOUR FATHER AND I DON'T THINK BUYING A NEW COMPUTER RIGHT NOW IS JUSTIFIED, AND YOU NEED TO ACCEPT THAT.
SO COOL IT WITH THE INCESSANT BEGGING.
PLEASE?
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN LIFE, MOM.
4-29
AMEND

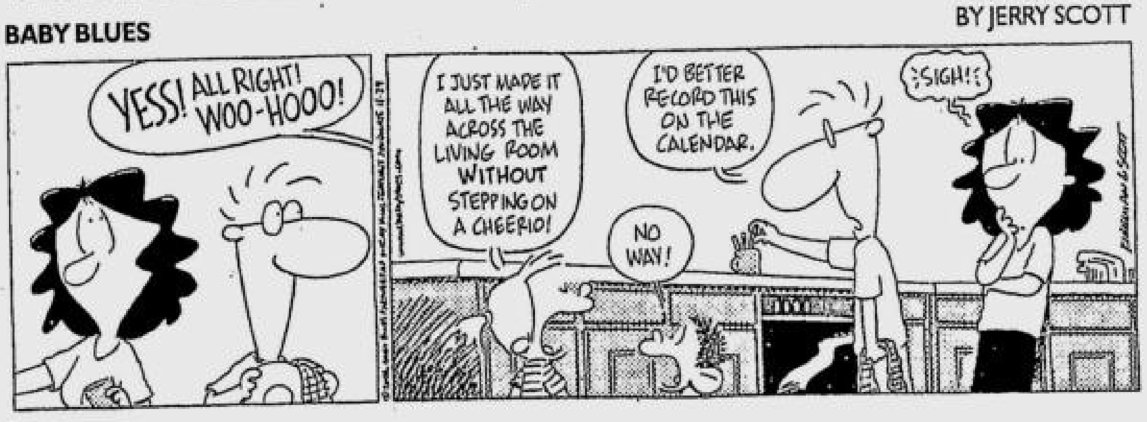
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I BELIEVE I MUST BE MATURING
4-29
I'M STARTING TO QUESTION WHETHER I HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS

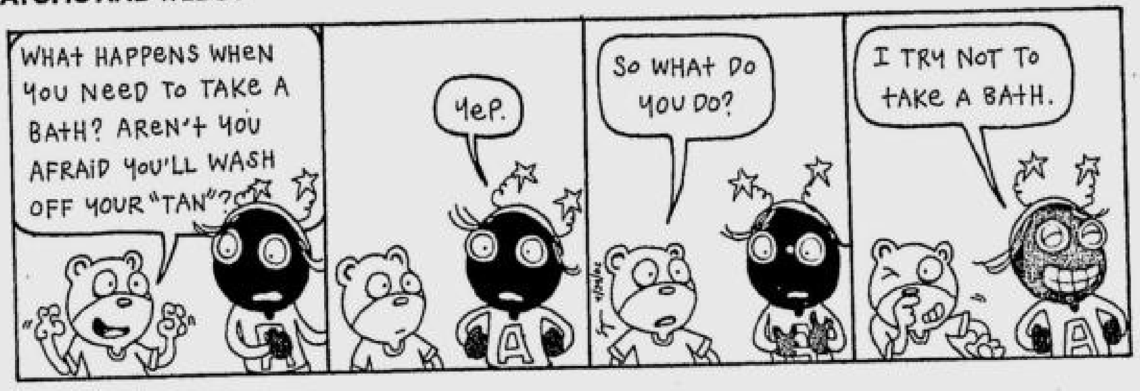
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YESS! ALL RIGHT! WOO-HOOO!
I JUST MADE IT ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE LIVING ROOM WITHOUT STEPPING ON A CHEERIO!
NO WAY!
I'D BETTER RECORD THIS ON THE CALENDAR.
SIGH!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU NEED TO TAKE A BATH? AREN'T YOU AFRAID YOU'LL WASH OFF YOUR "TAN"?
YEP.
SO WHAT DO YOU DO?
I TRY NOT TO TAKE A BATH.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright and mentally agile. Others love your quirky sense of humor. You like foreign places and meeting new people. You avoid boredom at all costs. By age 22, the tempo of your life picks up! It is not until you're 52 that you decide to settle down emotionally and physically. Expect major changes this year (perhaps as significant as in 1997).

Birthdate of: Kate Mulgrew, actress; Uma Thurman, actress; Zubin Mehta, conductor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel selfless toward others today. It's easy to put the needs and wants of others before your own. (This is certainly a noble impulse.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You will have an inspired discussion with a friend or a member of a group today. Somebody says something that elevates your ideas and your aspirations.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today you have some kind of influence with a parent, boss or teacher in such a way that makes it possible for you to help somebody else. Possibly, an authority figure shows you how to do this.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Spiritual, religious and philosophical ideas inspire you! Your appreciation of beauty is heightened. You're attracted to new ideas.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You want to help someone. You're willing to use the resources of others, or even something that you share with someone else, to benefit a third-party who is in need. (This is admirable.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is the perfect day to smooth over troubled waters with close friends and partners. Because you feel sympathetic and kind toward someone now (and vice versa), each of you is willing to listen to the other side.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): At work you have ideas about how to make things more stylish and attractive. You might also want to help a co-worker. Trust your gut instincts today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): See a movie, visit a park, do something playful. Romance beckons as well! You're attracted to whimsy and fantasy today. Escapist activities beckon to you now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Memories of your childhood might come to mind today. Perhaps a family member needs to confide in you today?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't worry if you spend a lot of time daydreaming today. Mercury, the ruler of your thoughts, is linked to fuzzy Neptune, the ruler of dreams and fantasies.

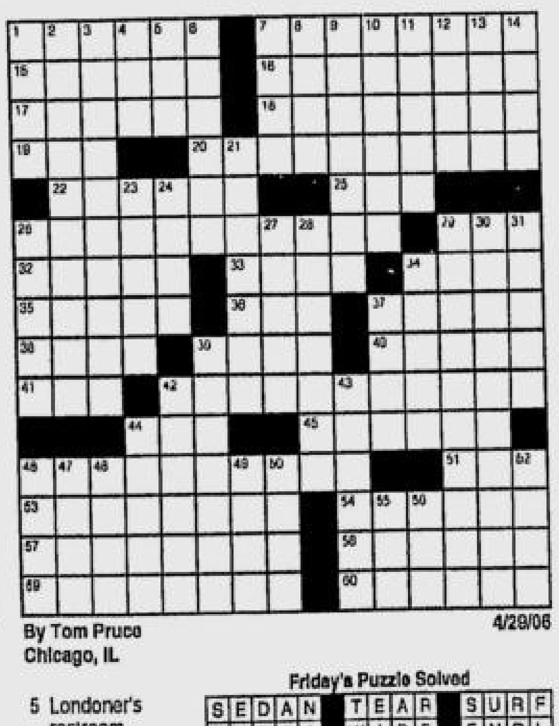
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is not a good day to try to do detailed work. Your mind is just not there. In fact, your mind keeps drifting off, thinking about the past or the future..

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Something luxurious and perhaps highly fashionable attracts you today. You will buy it if you can afford it. All beautiful things appeal to you now!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Swipes
7 Communist propaganda
15 Imitate without comprehension
16 City southeast of Los Angeles
17 Captivate
18 Values
19 Quantity of gum
20 Cantankerous quality
22 Light on one's feet
25 Squid's defense
26 Swaying from side to side
29 Chest bone
32 Teheran resident
33 Small change
34 Deadly poison
35 Brightened
36 Barroom spigot
37 Birch tree
38 Nights before holidays
39 Golly!
40 Gullible
41 Visibly embarrassed
42 Tsushima Island location
44 Bath place
45 Police symbol
46 Winter cleanup device
51 Drink for two?
53 Gas or petroleum conduit
54 Increasing
57 Charm
58 "The Devil's Dictionary" writer
59 Loathed
60 Binges

DOWN
1 Spit out
2 Old name of Madagascar's capital
3 Destroyed completely
4 Upper limb
5 Londoner's restroom
6 Promenade
7 Country singer Jackson
8 Open-mouthed stare
9 Mark produced by pressure
10 Growing wearier
11 Groom with excess vanity
12 Level to the ground
13 Poems of exaltation
14 Permission slip
21 Fission site
23 Less
24 Radar signal
26 More despicable
27 Back-comb
28 Synchronized
29 Goodyear purchase
30 Noticeable
31 Tours topper
34 Trumpet blast
37 Body or knock lead-in
39 Mischievous creatures
42 Khan's first name
43 Bushes
44 Nonentity
46 Went fast
47 Number of a cloud?
48 Elects
49 Back then
50 Uninvited plant
52 Years and years
55 Apple seed
56 For each



4/29/06

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	D	A	N		T	E	A	R		S	U	R	F
O	M	E	G	A		W	A	D	E		E	N	O	L
L	I	M	E	S		O	R	E	S		E	L	B	A
	L	I	N	C	O	L	N	P	E	N	N	I	E	S
			T	A	X	I		T	A	I		T	S	K
Z	A	P		R	I	T	E		T	N	N			
E	N	I	D		D	E	N	S		E	C	O	L	E
A	N	T	I	P	E	R	S	P	I	R	A	N	T	S
L	A	Y	E	R		S	U	I	T		A	C	D	C
			T	I	C		E	R	S	T		E	S	E
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S	O	U	N	D	J	U	D	G	E	M	E	N	T	
C	U	B	A		O	B	E	Y		A	V	O	I	D
O	T	I	S		L	E	E	R		L	E	V	E	E
T	E	C	H		E	R	M	A		E	R	A	S	E

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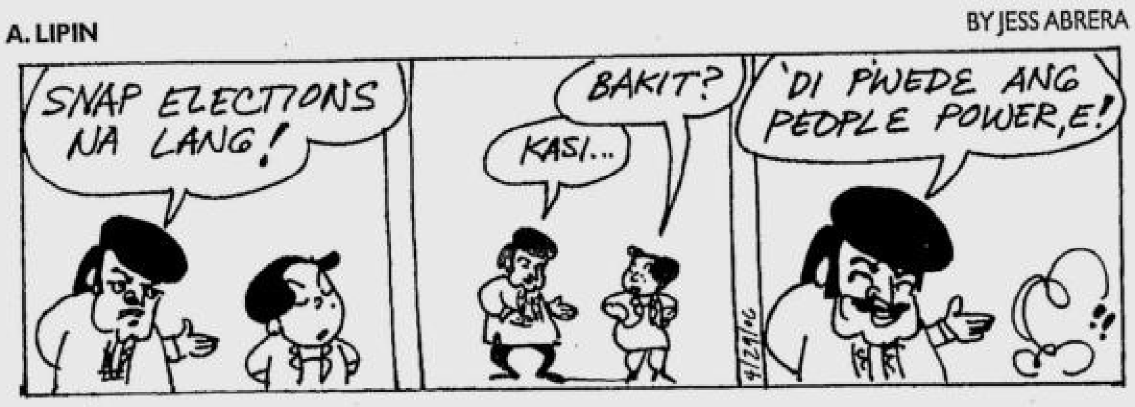
4/28/06

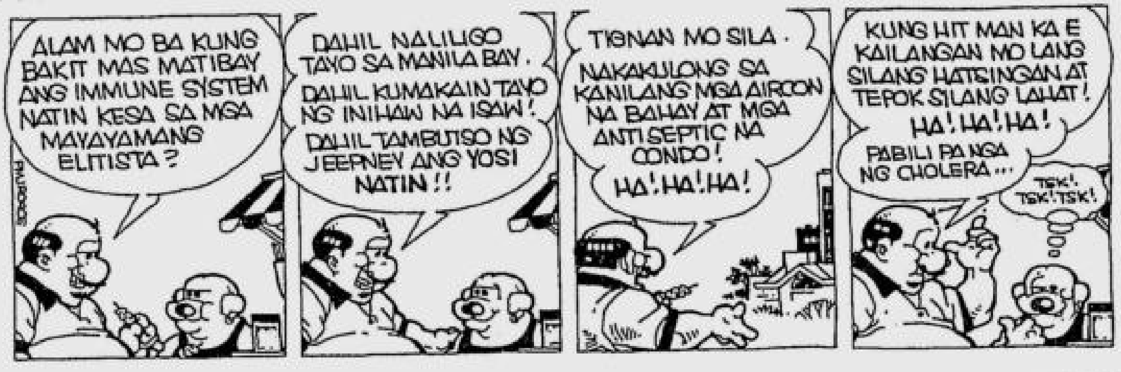
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SNAP ELECTIONS NA LANG!
KASI...
BAKIT?
4/29/06
'DI PWEDE ANG PEOPLE POWER, E!

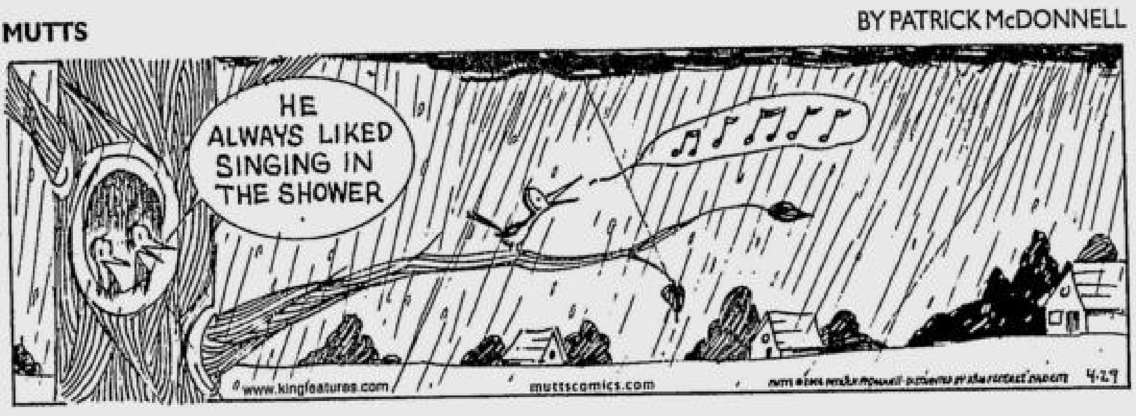
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO BA KUNG BAKIT MAS MATIBAY ANG IMMUNE SYSTEM NATIN KESA SA MGA MAYAYAMANG ELITISTA?
PMJR
DAHIL NALILIGO TAYO SA MANILA BAY.
DAHIL KUMAKAIN TAYO NG INIHAW NA ISAW!
DAHIL TAMBUTSO NG JEEPNEY ANG YOSI NATIN!!
TIGNAN MO SILA.
NAKAKULONG SA KANILANG MGA AIRCON NA BAHAY AT MGA ANTI SEPTIC NA CONDO!
HA! HA! HA!
KUNG HIT MAN KA E KAILANGAN MO LANG SILANG HATSINGAN AT TEPOK SILANG LAHAT!
HA! HA! HA!
PABILI PA NGA NG CHOLERA...
TSK! TSK! TSK!

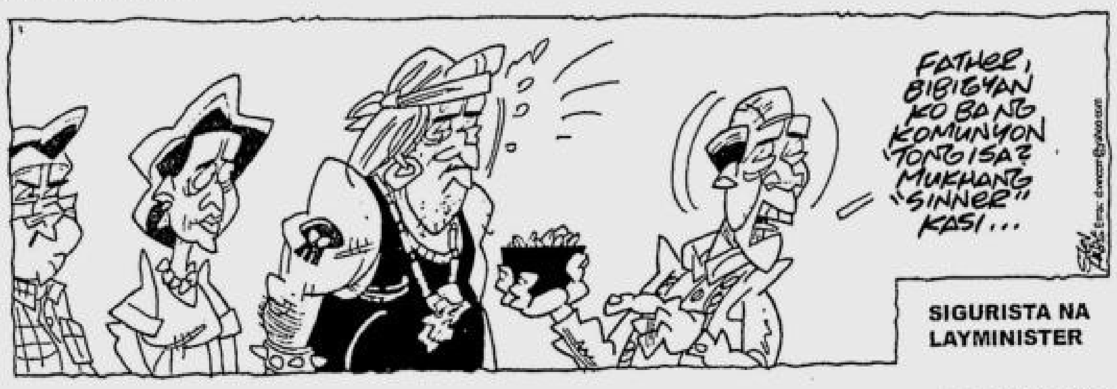
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HE ALWAYS LIKED SINGING IN THE SHOWER
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
4-29

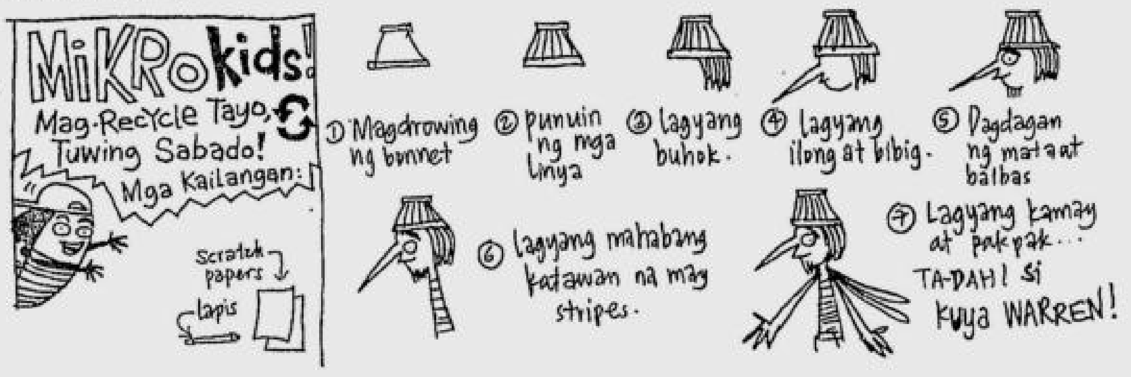
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


FATHER, BIBIGYAN KO BA NG KOMUNYON 'TONG ISA? MUKHANG "SINNER" KASI...
SIGURISTA NA LAYMINISTER

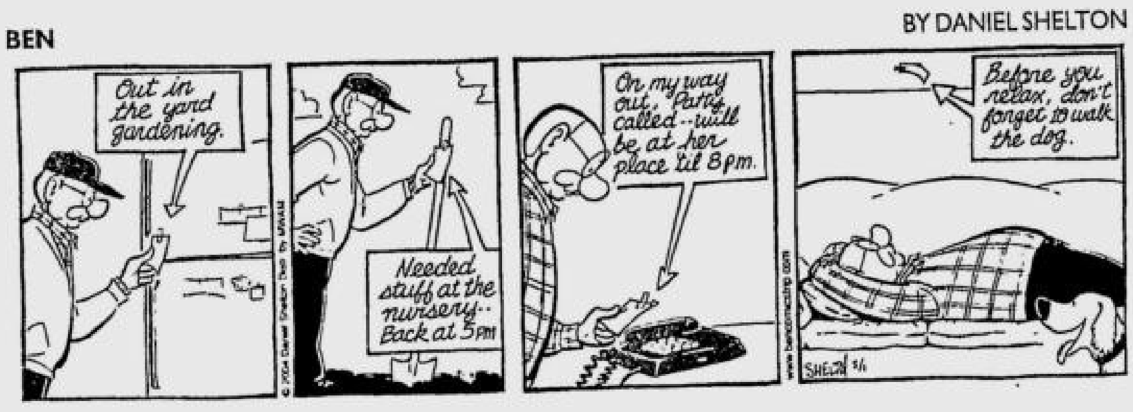
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRO kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
Scratch papers
lapis
① Magdrowing ng bonnet
② punuin ng mga linya
③ lagyang buhok.
④ lagyang ilong at bibig.
⑤ Dagdagan ng mata at balbas
⑥ lagyang mahabang katawan na may stripes.
⑦ Lagyang kamay at pakpak...
TA-DAH! si Kuya WARREN!

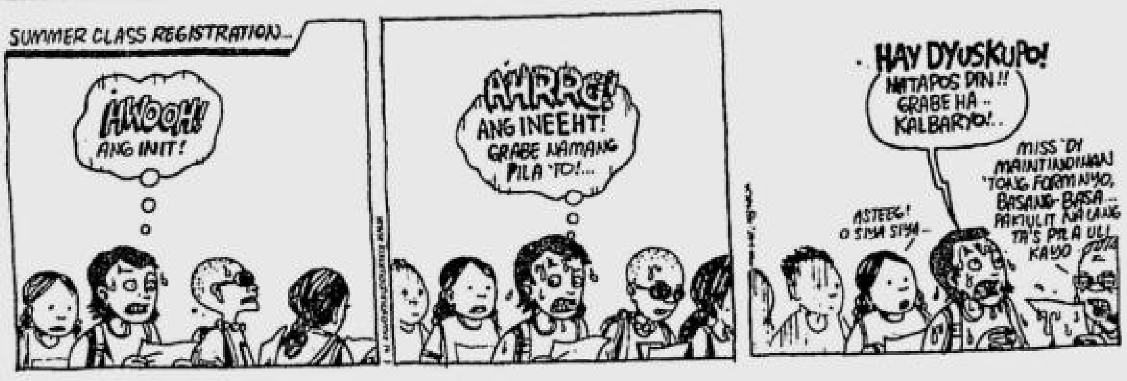
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


Out in the yard gardening.
Needed stuff at the nursery.. Back at 5pm
On my way out, Patty called--will be at her place til 8pm.
Before you relax, don't forget to walk the dog.
SHELTON

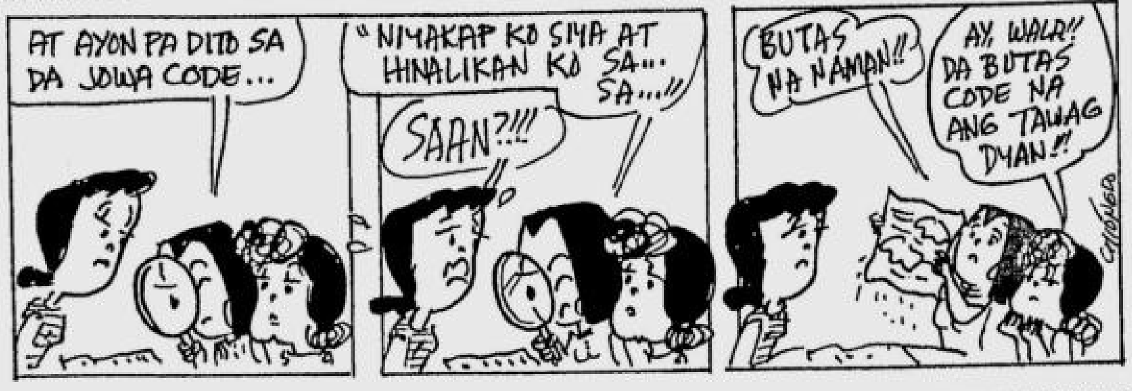
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SUMMER CLASS REGISTRATION...
HWOOH! ANG INIT!
AHRRG! ANG INEEHT! GRABE NAMANG PILA 'TO!...
HAY DYUSKUPO! NATAPOS DIN!! GRABE HA.. KALBARYO!..
ASTEEG! O SIYA SIYA—
MISS 'DI MAINTINDIHAN 'TONG FORM NYO, BASANG-BASA... PAKIULIT NA LANG TA'S PILA ULI KAYO

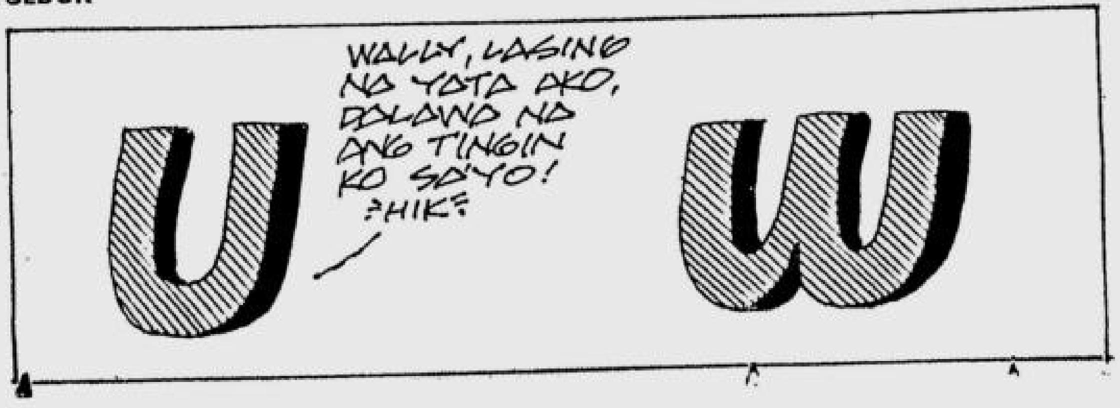
LOVEKNOTS

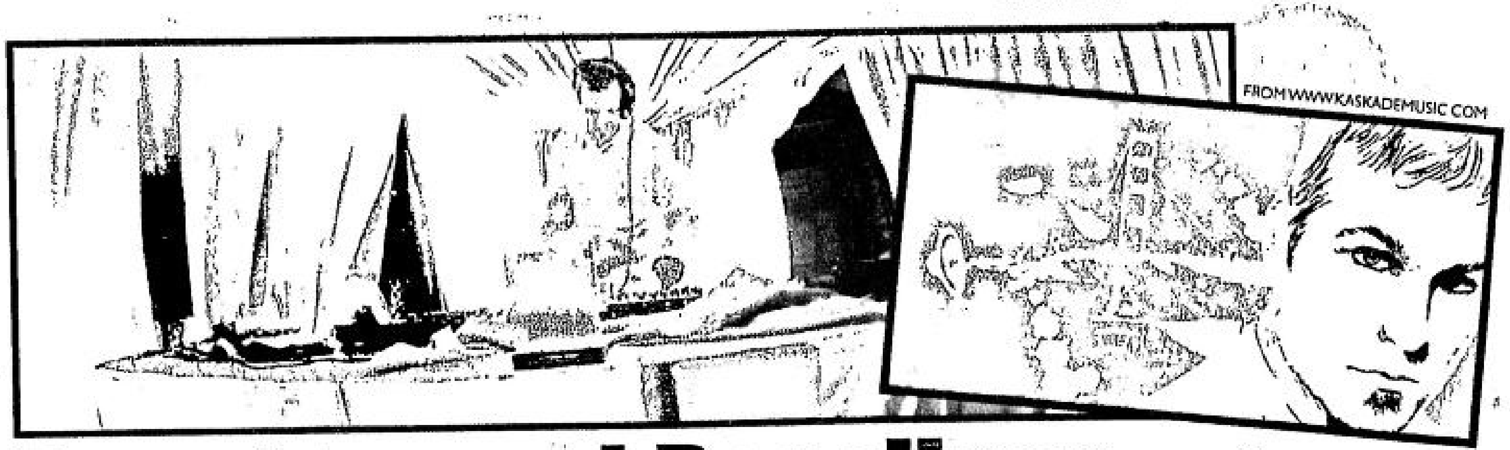
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AT AYON PA DITO SA DA JOWA CODE...
"NIYAKAP KO SIYA AT HINALIKAN KO SA... SA..."
SAAN?!!!
BUTAS NA NAMAN!!
AY, WALA!! DA BUTAS CODE NA ANG TAWAG DYAN!?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WALLY, LASING NA YATA AKO, DOLAWA NA ANG TINGIN KO SA'YO! ?HIK?


FROM WWW.KASKADEMUSIC.COM

Beaches and Basslines

From page E4

West Coastin'

For some reason, my buddies and I love taking your music to the beach, as a soundtrack for sunset cocktails, iPod breaks, or whatnot. Your sound is uplifting, melodic, and distinctly West Coast, that's why. How did that type of sound evolve?

I think your environment affects your creative state of mind. I think being in San Francisco and living there really influenced me to write and produce music like that.

Did you meet all the people who did the vocals on your tracks in San Francisco? Or do you meet them along the way?

I meet them all over the place. Actually I found a guy on MySpace and I just asked him to sing on one of my next songs. Somebody sent me his link and I liked his voice. So I'm constantly looking for people to work with.

And collaborate with.

Yeah! All the time. That's always something that's on my mind. While I'm on the road, I get a lot of demos. So sometimes I find people that way.

Soul and sunshine

How do you translate the positive energy when you're producing a track? Do you think of the people in the club?

You write and produce what you are. My music's a reflection of the person I am. I don't think it's one thing in particular that inspires me to make uplifting music. I have an outlook with a lot of sunshine, you know.

Yeah, I get you. There's dark house, then there's stuff you play at 2 in the morning when everyone's high. There's also trendy French, Latin, and Italian house. Then there's you …

Well definitely my music always plays much better—or it's more popular—where there's a beachfront. Like that big place in Sydney where I played. Or at Coachella [California], an outdoor festival, during the day. It seems like [the music] translates well in those situations. Maybe that's 'cause I love California and living there.

Again, most of my pals, those who travel around a lot, bring your music wherever they go. That's actually how I discovered "It's You, It's Me" in late 2002. I mean, it's still around and it still sounds great.

Sure, it's 5 years old and people are still singing it. That's definitely what I try to do with my music. I try and write melodies and lyrics that can stick with people.

Come on, I'm feeling everything

How did you react when you found out people in the Philippines actually dug your music?

I was surprised! It's always crazy to me how far and wide the music can reach and spread. I mean, I've traveled to many places that I would've never have an idea that my music had made it to.

Do you customize your playlist for the audience? Or do you have a standard one?

Not necessarily. That's part of the art of being a DJ.

Winging it?

Yeah. You see what [the audience is] vibing off of and you work with that. Most of the time I nail it but there are definitely some times that I'm not really sure what they want. I don't think they know what they want! (laughs)

It's you, it's me, it's him

Do you play a lot of your own tracks at your gigs?

Yeah, I play a lot of my own music. I think because I write and produce so much of my own music that people come to the show expecting me to play some of my music. When I first started out, I thought it was a little self-indulgent to play my own music but I realized that people actually come to the show …

Expecting to hear your stuff!

Yeah. I think with the Internet, my music's gone out there and people show up and they don't know that I'm a DJ. They just know my songs and they expect to see a band or some sort of live performance. Like a ten-piece band or something. And I'm like, nah, I'm just a DJ. If my music spreads more to those kinds of people [who get the impression I'm a band] it's important for me to convey my sound in my DJ set. I kinda need to play my own tracks.

So any tips for aspiring/wannabe DJs, like, uhm, me?

Keep with it. Stick to it. If you love it, keep at it. It will come.

Presented by Dunhill. Special thanks to Superfly, O Music, Preview Magazine, and FHM. For more info, hit up www.kaskademusic.com. Y'all can ask him to add you, too: www.myspace.com/kaskademusic.

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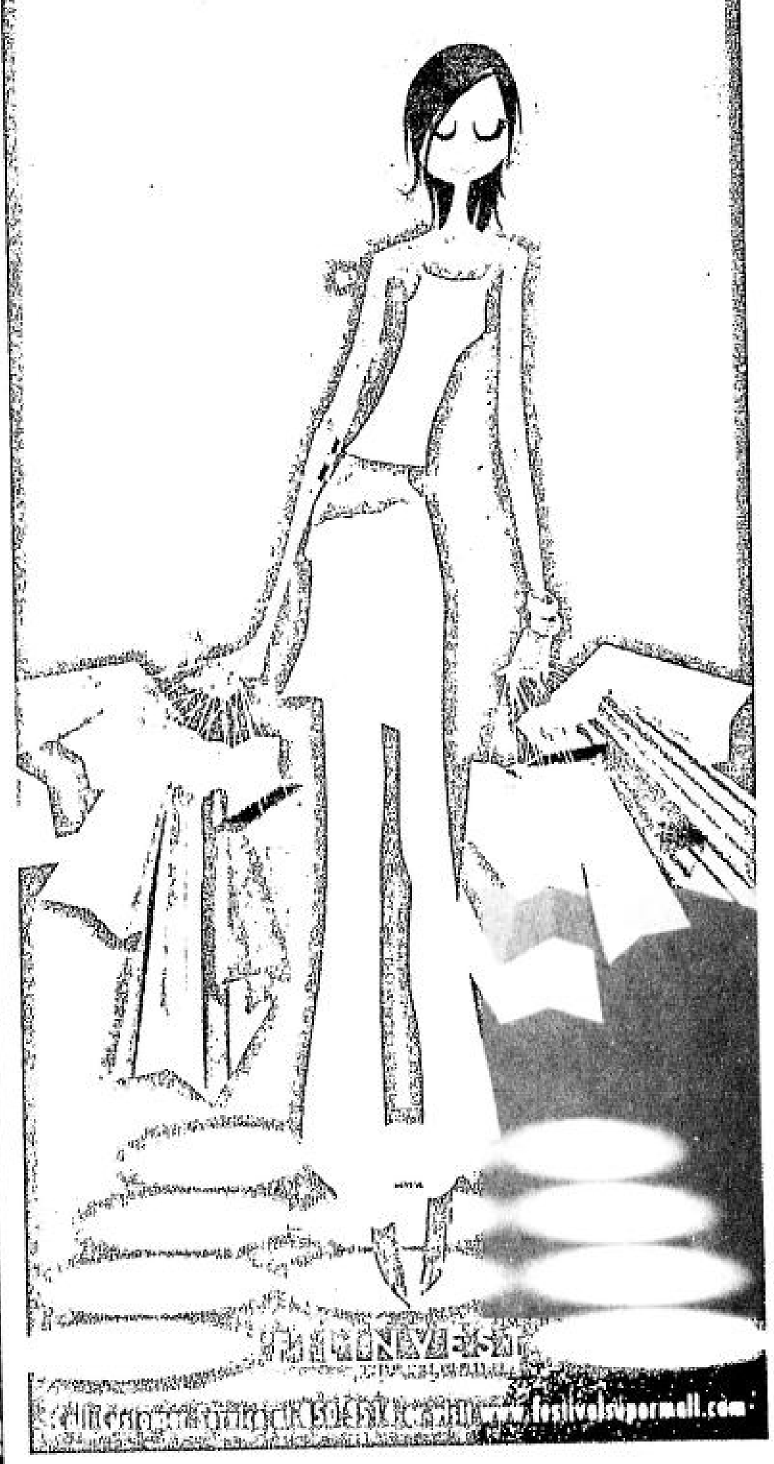

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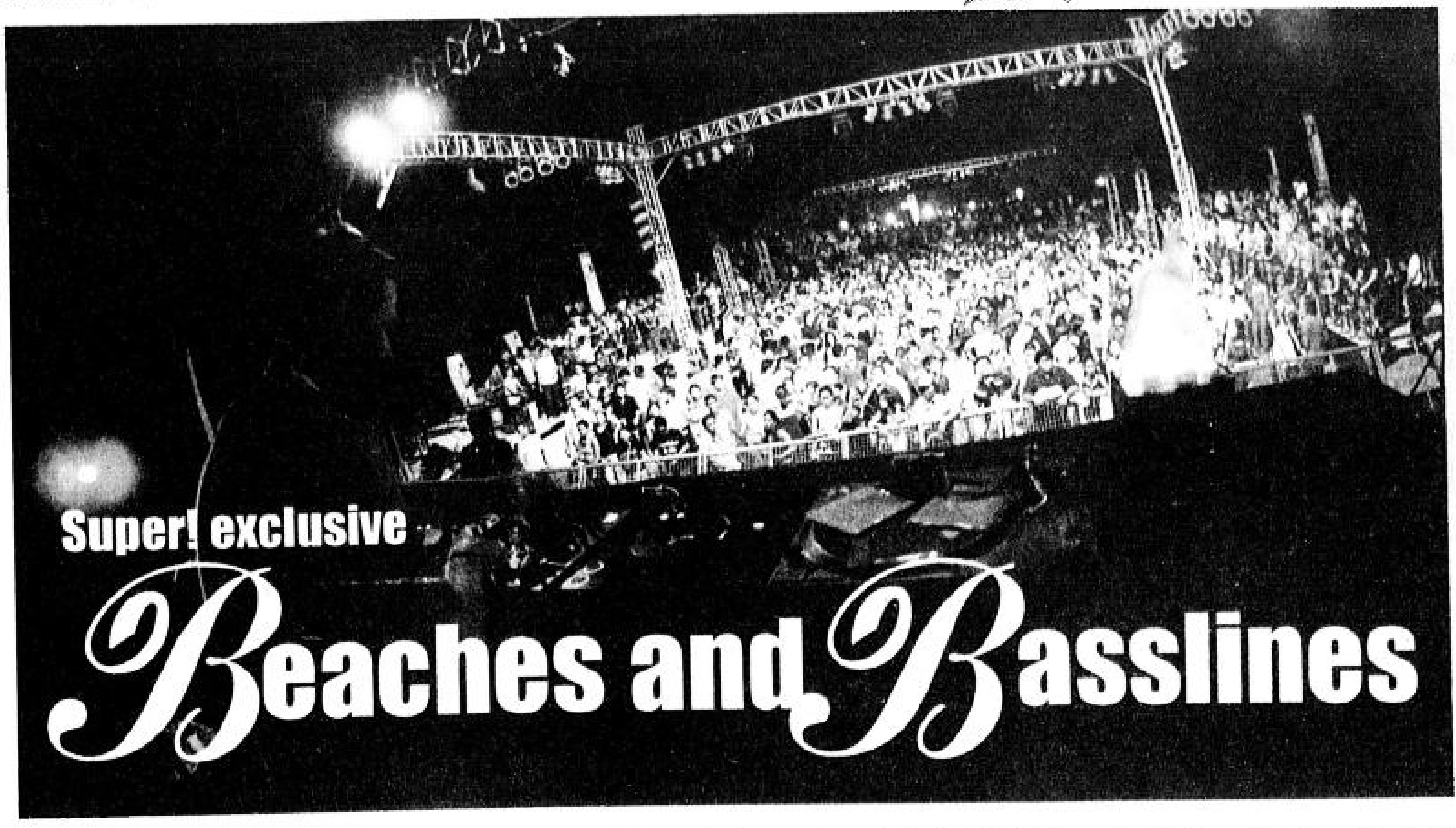

Super! exclusive

Beaches and Basslines

In a one-on-one with Super! San Francisco DJ Kaskade shares some really, really good vibes

PHOTOS: DANIEL TAN

HOUSE MUSIC JUNKIES—THOSE with a default weekend state of mind—have called his tunes the soundtrack to the soul. The wealth of beats, inspirational loops, and sunny-side-up vibes have made San Francisco producer and DJ Kaskade, well, the shizzle.

He was born Ryan Raddon in Chicago, but close buds started calling him Kaskade and it stuck. This subsequent DJ moniker suited his style nicely, evoking spanking beaches and laidback basslines. Breaking out in post-glow-stick 2003 with the still-superb gem "It's You, It's Me," Kaskade has since rolled with dance-floor deities like Ben Watt, Marques Wyatt, and Roger Sanchez.

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

Balancing the otherworldliness of his trademark sound with his flop-flop-friendly nature, Kaskade recently reeled into the Philippines to give us kids a totally sweet sunrise session. Super! caught up with him before his pre-Easter gig at the Coconut Palace and powwowed about meeting peeps on MySpace, life in the global party pipeline, and these strange round things called records.

I read somewhere that you started building your vinyl collection in the '80s. What was the first record you bought?

I bought my first record in 1985 and the reason I remember that was 'cause I wasn't old enough to drive. I didn't have my license yet. I was 15 and my mom drove me to the record stores, which was a big deal back then. And I bought a few records, but the first house music record I bought, I think, was called "The Flight" It wasn't a famous record at all.

Yeah. Never heard of that. So what's the running total now?

My [music] collection is huge. Somewhere around 10,000.

All vinyl or do you have CDs as well?

Now I've been using CDs a lot more in my performances just because I travel so much. It makes it easier to lug more music around, but that's only pretty recent with me. I've been exclusively [using] vinyl for years and years [before that].

Bedroom DJ

DJing inspired you to make music. Did you ever take lessons?

I was a bedroom DJ for years. I started playing records in '85 and I had a couple OK gigs in the early '90s but then I really didn't do it as a profession. I didn't actually make money, like, get paid, until 1995. That was my first paying gig.

How did you learn the technical aspects? I'm taking lessons now and it's kinda hard to cue a vinyl record. CDs are way easier.

I was just self-taught. In the studio, it was the same thing. I just started buying more and more gear and taught myself how to use it. I didn't have any formal training. The only formal music training I had was I was in choir in high school. You know, for four years.

And that helped?

Yeah, sure. Of course. You know, you can write music and read it a little bit. But I mean, I don't really rely on that very much. (laughs)

Home bass

You've lived everywhere from suburban Chicago to the University of Utah. Moving from the cradle of house music to, uhm, the mountains, can you describe the house music scene in Salt Lake City circa 1992?

Pretty much nonexistent! It was very small. There were a few guys who had moved to Salt Lake for university or for whatever reason. One guy had moved from New York and another from San Francisco—just a couple guys who were collecting records at that time.

Whoa. Have you gone back ever since? How has it changed?

I go back and play shows a couple times a year. Salt Lake's awesome! It's a great place; I love it there. I miss it sometimes. I miss the mountains for sure! But it's good now. They have like more clubs there that are packed and they fly people in.

I hear it's a great party place, in an alternative, Mormon way. What's SLC (Salt Lake City) like now? How are the curfews?

They stop serving at 1 a.m. California stops at 2. New York is 4 a.m.

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